

Industry-Led SCCAP Seeks Expansion Despite 2020 COVID
Obstacles

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Industry-Led SCCAP Successfully Celebrates 1st Year Anniversary and Seeks Expansion Despite 2020 COVID Obstacles

EXPLORATION PARK, Cape Kennedy, Florida, USA, August 11, 2020 – SCCAP, the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program, an autonomous sub-committee of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. and an industry-driven State of Florida registered apprenticeship program, is proudly, and successfully, celebrating its 1st year anniversary!

Two weeks ago, marked the 1st year anniversary on July 29, 2019, when Governor Ron DeSantis attended the SCCAP Apprentice and Festo MAP2 Signing Ceremony at OneWeb Satellites manufacturing facility in Exploration Park near the Kennedy Space Center. Governor DeSantis welcomed the first cohort of nine Mechatronics Technician apprentices into the two-year program at the formal event, which was attended by government and business leaders. Also in attendance as speakers were Frank DiBello, President and CEO of Space Florida, Dr. James Richey, President of Eastern Florida State College, and Thomas Lichtenberger, CEO of Festo Didactic.

This week also formally marks one year since SCCAP's Mechatronics Technician apprentices started their first semester on August 8, 2019, at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC). Despite multiple setbacks and obstacles due to the impacts of the Coronavirus crisis in Florida, SCCAP's Mechatronics apprentices are now preparing to enter their third semester at EFSC on August 17, 2020, to begin the second year of their apprenticeship program.

“SCCAP has overcome significant challenges over the past year,” says Steve Kane, Executive Director of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. “Bryan Kamm, Founder and Lead Advisor, has worked tirelessly to manage issues, build capability and increase capacity, which, even in the best of times would be monumental let alone during a pandemic. Our Executive Committee, along with Eastern Florida State College and Brevard Public Schools, has come together in a significant way to make this program a reality for existing and emerging advanced manufacturing here on the Space Coast. We’re thankful for their support and excited about the future as we expand the program into CNC/DNC Machining and Fiber Composite occupations.”

Under the SCCAP program, the Mechatronics Technician apprentices attend classes at the EFSC Cocoa Campus two days a week and work on the manufacturing floors of participating companies, including OneWeb Satellites, Rocket Crafters, and Knights Armament, three days a week.

By mixing classroom and lab learning with “on-the-job” training, the apprentices will graduate in 2021 with real, immediately marketable skills, as well as a two-year Engineering Technology A.S. degree from EFSC, stackable credentials such as NIMS, SpaceTEC and CerTEC, and other nationally recognized certifications, as well as a State of Florida registered apprenticeship certificate and a German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) AHK apprenticeship certificate through Festo MAP2.

“Supporting five diverse apprentices’ in their educational growth within OneWeb Satellites and receiving back gratitude not only from the apprentices, but also from their co-workers and managers is rewarding in itself,” states Kai Schmidt, HR Director for OneWeb Satellites and SCCAP’s Executive Chair. “This apprenticeship program fits to our OneWeb Satellites’ continuous learning and agile company culture. Not only the apprentices, but our whole company is benefitting from the dual learning concept – an educational learning cycle between Eastern Florida State College, the partnering companies and ourselves. This apprenticeship program contributes to the establishment of our talent pipelines and enables a new career path for high school graduates. I’m looking forward to seeing our first apprentices graduate next year, and I’m also eager to extend the entire program to more companies and new apprenticeships.”

“Participation in the SCCAP has been a real benefit for us,” said Rocket Crafters’ President, Rob Fabian. “Our apprentice came to us with a strong work ethic and enthusiasm. Through his formal training at EFSC, on the job training at our test facility, and ‘can do’ attitude, he has become an integral part of our research and development team. As the aerospace and high-tech industries grow in the area, this program will continue to be a great benefit to the Space Coast. I’m looking forward to seeing how the second year goes!”

“We at Knight’s Armament Company (KAC) realized several years ago that it is imperative to train our staff and other students in the trades,” says Knight’s Armament’s Vice President & General Manager, Art Hoelke. “I have been fortunate; for years KAC has given me the latitude to assist our community in building programs that give our young people the opportunity to engage in an apprenticeship training program which allows these students to cultivate a very viable future. This training not only helps the student but also helps the employer fill specialty positions needed with a qualified workforce. This has been our mission for years; not only for the County of Brevard but for the State of Florida as well. It has been through the great collaborative effort of Career Source Brevard and Eastern Florida State College that the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program has been able to assist KAC in placing a student employee in this program. KAC wants to continue to invest in educational efforts to promote all trades and give the students the best opportunity for their future. This is a win, win for all.”

Festo MAP2 is a nationally recognized affiliated program associated with the GACC (German American Chamber of Commerce). The GACC AHK Certificate for the Mechatronics Technician occupation is truly a world-class program recognized in Europe and worldwide as the leading Mechatronics apprenticeship program in the world. Mechatronics is a relatively new occupational field in the US, but has been practiced now for a few decades in Europe. Mechatronics combines the skills required in today’s advanced manufacturing environment including mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic and PLC, and other skills that require mechatronics technicians to maintain advanced manufacturing equipment required in today’s highly automated global economy.

"This is a pivotal time for career and technical education," said Andreas Brockmann, Head of Technical Training & Education for Festo Didactic U.S.

"SCCAP's work is critical in preparing students for competitive STEM careers, and showing them how to navigate complex workforce demands due to Industry 4.0 innovation. We're very proud of what our students and partners accomplished this year, and we look forward to MAP2 expansion in 2021."

While the SCCAP program started its first cohort of Mechatronics Technicians last year, SCCAP will be expanding the program this coming year starting in January 2021 to include the occupations of Fiber Composite Technicians and Advanced CNC/DNC Machinists in collaboration with education partner EFSC at its Cocoa Campus and newly renovated Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) which now includes advanced manufacturing labs for Mechatronics, CNC, Fiber Composites, Welding and Soldering.

As SCCAP Founder and Lead Advisor, Bryan Kamm credits the program's industry partners for their fortitude and determination to succeed. "When SCCAP was first conceived during its initial discussions, we never imagined the challenges we would face in the program post the coronavirus. The fact that we are still going strong and are expanding is a credit to our close collaboration and leadership including our industry partners, EFSC, SpaceTEC and the Space Coast community. The new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at EFSC Cocoa Campus has equipped our program with world-class training equipment for advanced manufacturing. We look forward to building the program and adding additional industry partners as we expand into the Advanced CNC/DNC Machinist and Fiber Composite Technicians occupations."

SCCAP was instrumental in advising EFSC in the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center to accommodate the needs of the apprenticeship program and other workforce-related training instruction required for advanced manufacturers in Florida's Space Coast. While SCCAP has a primary focus on developing an apprenticeship program for the Space, Aerospace, Defense and Aircraft/Aviation industries, it is now expanding to other Space Coast industries such as Marine and Surfboard Manufacturers, Logistics and Distribution, Plastics and Injection Moulding and any other manufacturers that require skilled technicians in CNC, Mechatronics and Fiber Composites. The new training center will enable multiple manufacturers to take part in the apprenticeship program and other advanced manufacturing workforce training programs at EFSC.

“It is very gratifying to see the drive and determination of the student apprentices working both independently and in teams to accomplish tasks and assignments”, comments Frank Margiotta, Associate Provost of the EFSC Cocoa Campus. “Industry support for the program has been tremendous with representatives from member companies donating time, expertise and resources to help ensure our educational programs meet industry workforce needs. SCCAP is an excellent example of how industry and academia can partner together and develop something far greater than a traditional training program.”

“With Florida’s Space Coast leading the state in the creation of manufacturing jobs, the demand for skilled workers will continue to grow in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19,” said Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast President and CEO Lynda Weatherman. “Programs like SCCAP strive to meet this need for the mutual benefit of the apprentices, the employers and the economy of Brevard County. On behalf of the EDC, I applaud Bryan Kamm and SCCAP on this milestone.”

All Space Coast manufacturers interested in developing an advanced manufacturing workforce pipeline are welcome to join SCCAP. For more information, please contact Bryan Kamm by email at bryank@bkammconsulting.com or by phone at 813-415-7514.

SCCAP has also set up a GoFundMe Campaign to help in the costs for equipment, training materials, apprentice scholarships and lab instructor fees to support the program. Anyone interested in donating to the program can do so at the following [GoFundMe link](#).

About OneWeb Satellites

OneWeb Satellites is the world’s first high volume, low-cost satellite manufacturer. Formed in 2016, it has revolutionized satellite manufacturing by applying the commoditization and mass production techniques utilized in aircraft and auto manufacturing to dramatically reduce production times and costs. Where a traditional satellite may cost tens of millions of dollars and take years to build, OneWeb Satellites can do it at a far lower cost and at a production rate of up to two per day.

About Rocket Crafters

Rocket Crafters is an emerging propulsion and launch company focused on bringing their STAR-3D™ hybrid rocket engines to market and providing launch services to the small satellite market. Their patent-pending fuel grain and injector technology produce simple, smooth burning engines that are truly safe, throttleable, affordable, and reliable. This allows Rocket Crafters to provide launch services at a price that is driven by the market and not the cost of the hardware.

About Knight's Armament

Knight's Armament Company was founded by Mr. C. Reed Knight, Jr. in order to focus on products that would meet the unique requirements of the U.S. Special Operations Forces. In collaboration with Mr. Eugene Stoner, Knight's produced the renowned SR-25 rifle. From the first developments in signature reduction devices to the revolutionary RAS rail system and the Knight Vision family of electro-optics, Knight's commitment to quality and high manufacturing standard deliver innovative, reliable and functional weapon systems and accessories for our U.S. military, federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

About SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.

Founded in 2002, non-profit SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI) sponsors and serves as a fiscal agent for the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program. SPI manages activities directly or indirectly related to workforce development and technician credentialing under the auspices of NASA, ASTM International and the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA-AST). SPI supports the US military, public and private educational institutions and employers through the development of curriculum standards and performance-based certifications for active-duty military and technicians engaged in aviation, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing operations.

About EFSC

Eastern Florida State College, located in the heart of Florida's Space Coast, is a co-educational, publicly supported post-secondary institution. EFSC serves over 15,000 students annually and is recognized as one of America's leading state colleges for quality instruction, organization, innovative, and leading-edge programs. The total number of Associate Degrees earned each year by students is in the top two percent in the nation.

About the EDC of Florida's Space Coast

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast, influencing change on government laws and regulations affecting economic development, promoting the Space Coast to encourage new investment, supporting efforts of Space Coast military installations, and relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and high-tech companies. The EDC is a private, not-for-profit coalition whose stakeholders are business leaders committed to the economic growth and stability of Florida's Space Coast. Visit their [website](#).

About Festo Didactic

[Festo Didactic](#) is a leading provider of technical education equipment and training. Festo's educational solutions evolved from its world-class automation and engineering division and integrates the latest trends in each learning system it offers. The innovative product range allows educators and trainers to equip their classrooms with the technology they need, from individual workstations to complete Learning Factories, as well as training and consulting, eLearning, courseware solutions, and LMS integration.

About Kamm Consulting Group, LLC

Kamm Consulting Group, LLC is a Florida-based company that provides site selection consulting for German-speaking companies in the US and assists in GAP™ (Germanic Apprenticeship Program) Turnkey Solution Partner implementations within local US communities. GAP™ Turnkey Solution Partners are Hoffmann Group, Festo, KUKA, Siemens, EMCO Group, Bluegrass, EOS and Weiler which, together with Kamm Consulting Group offer world-class equipment, standards and curriculum for GAP™ implementations. For more information about Kamm Consulting Group, visit [our website](#) to learn more about the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program or call Bryan Kamm at 813-415-7514.

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