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Ron Hammon, sales engineer for Gosiger Inc., talks about the capabilities of the new CNC milling machines that have been delivered to the college. The college and Gosiger are partnering to showcase the machines for the company and train students how to use the cutting edge technology.

Company, college collaborate for success

By Joshua Dillen
Associate News Editor

"These machines can make anything out of anything," said Scott Giltz, dean of technology, health occupations and workforce at Clackamas Community College. He was beaming with pride and excitement as he explained the capabilities of the three new computer numerical control (CNC) machines that had been delivered to room 152 in Barlow Hall on Friday, Jan. 13.

Giltz spoke with enthusiasm about a new partnership between CCC and Gosiger Inc. The new CNC machines are worth \$500,000 to \$750,000 depending on final specifications and configuration. The company sells and services the machines, yet its closest dealership is in Seattle, Wash. The milling machines are a vital part of manufacturing worldwide. Whether it is a plastic part in your computer or a tiny screw in a hearing aid, most of what we use every day would not be possible without these behemoths of modern technology.

"It's a win-win situation for all of us," Giltz said.

Based in Dayton, Ohio, Gosiger always strives to make the machines they distribute as accessible and usable to their manufacturing customers as possible. With no showrooms in the area and an industry shortage of professionals trained to run these sophisticated machines, the company needed a way to connect and build a network of manufacturers and a qualified employee base. Most importantly, they needed a convenient Oregon location to showcase their products to their area's customers. Ron Hammon explains the companies marketing strategies with passion.

Local companies like Boeing, Nike and several small manufacturers need fully trained CNC machine operators to replace a retiring workforce and staff a growing industry. Hammon is Gosiger's sales engineer. He voiced his concerns about a shortage of skilled workers. He describes a potential dilemma on the horizon. Hammon is part of the team coordinating the installation of the machines.

"Our industry is going to be in a crisis by 2012," he said. "No one is being trained to replace those retiring.

The deal will allow Gosiger representatives to demonstrate their inventory and its capabilities to clients, while manufacturing and engineering students get hands on training using the most advanced technology out there today. Gosiger will rotate machines through the Barlow lab in the manufacturing shop. With some minor upgrades to bring power to the machines, the cost to the college will be minimal compared to the huge expense of just one of the machines. Students are the true beneficiaries. The college can now graduate and certify students who can operate the newest technology.

CAD/CNC Instructor Chris Rizzo, with 25 years in the field, and seven years at the college, said "I have a pretty good finger on the pulse of what's going on in the manufacturing industry."

Rizzo's personal network connected him with Gosiger and allowed him to get the ball rolling and help link the company and the college.

Giltz worked at the Wilsonville campus before he became head of his department at the main campus, which used to be home

to Oregon Advanced Technology Center (OATC). The OATC was similar to this partnership in that connected local manufactures, CNC dealers and trained operators.

The OATC no longer exists. Rizzo knew of that program's success through consulting work in the past. He decided to figure out how to make something like that happen in Barlow's manufacturing shop and got the ball rolling. Rizzo organized a meeting attended by Hammon and other representatives from Gosiger with himself, Giltz and Bob Delgatto, CCC manufacturing instructor, last August that has culminated in a synergistic relationship. These men hope to give CCC graduates a jumpstart in the field of manufacturing, by working to build this relationship. These workers will not need to be retrained on advanced equipment.

"Instead of on the job, we can train students here," said Rizzo.

Delgatto had the same excitement about this project as Giltz, Hammon and Rizzo. The passion for engineering and manufacturing was only superceded by their desire to prepare stu-

dents in the best way possible. Delgatto was just as passionate about enabling students to gain the employable skills they need. He was particularly animated when telling about the void the industry is experiencing with the growing lack of skilled operators.

"There are 600,000 jobs out there that can't be filled," he said.

"We are all very excited about what this can mean for our students and the manufacturing community as a whole," Delgatto stated in an email.

Delgatto expects the machines to be up and running in two to three weeks. Some accessories and parts need to be delivered and there is quite an install process he said.

Delgatto also gave kudos to Rizzo. "He was very instrumental in getting the ball rolling on this arrangement," he stated.

This brilliant engineering of an exceptional partnership has rocketed CCC to the forefront manufacturing training.

"This is the future of America" said Rizzo as he admired the new advanced manufacturing lab in Barlow.

Littering the halls of justice: is America lawsuit-happy?



By James Duncan
Design Editor

With lawsuits on the campus' mind, this writer finds the topic of the law and the way people wield it against each other, deeply fascinating. Over the course of the last many decades the law has become easier to use in more and more frivolous ways.

In 2006 the parents of a student decided to sue a school because a teacher woke the student up in a less than polite way. While it is terrifying to be jarred awake suddenly from a nice classroom nap, I'm not sure it has even spontaneously resulted in severe

hearing loss or "emotional trauma" the parents and the student claim. This is one instance where there is a chance, no matter how small, that the plaintiffs are actually responding to an injury or they are just taking advantage of the system to make some quick money.

Just last week an instructor was throwing pen caps at me for sleeping in class! The precedent has been set, litigation will be swift. "Pen bruises" should be worth at least a couple million.

A woman sued a pair of girls because she had a panic attack when they brought her a plate of cookies in 2005.

Cases like this litter the halls of justice but why is this allowed to happen? Why is a person able to make a sandwich in the back of a Winnebago, while driving and sue the company when they crash? The simple answer is because people are no longer held accountable for their actions.

There was once a time not that long ago, as a matter of fact, that when you burned yourself with a cup of tea it was your own fault for not blowing enough or sipping! An increasing number of people are deciding that rather than looking at themselves

and saying "Wow, maybe I did something wrong and should not do that," they would rather say "I can do no wrong. I am going to sue the closest person I can blame!"

Now this is not to say that all lawsuits are silly. Many that look like a desperate ploy for free money have valid reasoning behind them. A famous case that's cited by many as frivolous legislation is the McDonald's hot coffee case, also known as Liebeck v. McDonald's Restaurants. In this case Mrs. Liebeck opened a cup of coffee that was 180 degrees and spilled it into her lap. Stop here and add that she was initially awarded \$2.7 million; it starts to look like she was grubbing for all she could steal.

The facts though, paint a different picture because after receiving third and second degree burns to 22 percent of her body, she asked only that McDonalds pay for the extensive skin graphs and eight days of work she was forced to give up for her stay in the hospital after the incident. She requested a total of \$10,500 that would be needed to cover the medical bills and compensate her for missed work, but McDonalds offered a total amount of \$800 and refused to budge.

An overzealous lawyer and a jury decided

that she should be compensated for two days' worth of total coffee sales. This amount was lowered by the appeal of McDonalds and Mrs. Liebeck. In the end they settled for an undisclosed amount that was less than \$600,000.

The power of the law was laid down to protect people and to keep us all safe from others who would choose to put us in harm's way, to keep us from harming ourselves and to keep us from harming each other, but whatever happened to learning from your mistakes? When did personal responsibility go flying out the window? Who knows!

Maybe people need to learn that even if you leave your two-year-old alone with a small toy and they shove it so far up their nose that you need to take them to the hospital, that it isn't the responsibility of the toy maker to prevent YOU from being a bad parent or an overall bad person. Yes that is the end of it! If you are dumb enough to be injured by the day to day activities of being alive you don't deserve to make money because you can call a lawyer. You see lawsuits are like children, just because you have the skill set to make one doesn't mean you should.