

Ultimate Engineering

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of engineers hinders innovation and competitiveness in the global economy and threatens the ability to create and keep high-tech jobs in the U.S. The Intel Ultimate Engineering Experience is part of the company's expanded engineering internship program to reach that 40 percent before they decide to leave the engineering field of study. "That's the biggest value," said 40-year-old Jeff Patterson, a

that many reported working non-stop until sunrise," said Gregg Meyer, a PCC civil and mechanical engineering instructor. Erica Lipski, 18, is an incoming PCC student from Sunset High School in Beaverton who counts herself as one of those excited students. Lipski is in that demographic that Intel wants to encourage to keep going with

It's giving me a broad spectrum of what to expect for the different fields that I want to pursue.

-- Erica Lipski

STEM-focused studies. She is testing the waters of various engineering fields and her interests rest in robotics. When she was in the seventh grade she was on the first all-girl team that won Intel's state robotics championship and advanced to the world competition.

"It's giving me a broad spectrum of what to expect for the different fields that I want to pursue," Lipski said. "I want to pursue robotics, but these past two weeks when we did programming; it's gotten me into gaming."

According to Intel, 40 percent of U.S. students leave engineering or change majors after the first year of college. A shortage

second-year computer science major at the Sylvania Campus. "(The Experience) gives you skills and a metric to decide what to work on and see where you are in the process. It's giving me a focus, a boost and a lot of different perspectives."

PCC's partnering with Intel is nothing new. The two have a longstanding partnership that has developed the college's Microelectronics Technology Program, which was born 20 years ago out of Intel's need for highly trained manufacturing technicians that could be educated and hired locally. To date, hundreds of PCC graduates, produced by many of the college's technical programs, are filling that need for Intel.

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