

DACC Coordinated Engineering Internship Program

In the last five years, DACC has developed an Engineering Internship Program in hopes of providing students with “real” engineering experience. It is our hope to equip students with more than academics. These internship experiences can affect the students’ future employment and salaries.

We have secured four positions within the Illinois Work Grant for engineering students and actively recruit internships outside of the grant as well. DACC has consistently added 1-2 internships per year to its program. We now place approximately 70% of our students in engineering related internships. One hundred percent of the students currently requesting internships are placed.

All internships are paid with salaries ranging from minimum wage to \$12.50 per hour. We currently partner with local industries such as Aqua Illinois, Krupp, Black Beauty, Timeomatic, KIK, and City of Danville Engineering. In the past, DACC has worked with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Fiberteq, and American Freight to provide internships. DACC has also arranged for CO-OP experiences for two of our students with IDOT.

Short term internships have also been provided by Danville Metal, Tridan Internations, J&N Enterprises, and Holmes Brothers, Inc. These companies are members of the manufacturing cluster that works with the Engineering for Tomorrow (EFT) program. The EFT program is a local program in which students accepted by the manufacturing cluster receive 2/3 of their tuition paid. In return, the students remain in the county for two years after graduation.

Internship Descriptions

ThyssenKrupp: ThyssenKrupp is an international group with high levels of capability in four main areas: steel, capital goods and services. ThyssenKrupp holds top three market positions in most of its activities. The Presta Division in Danville produces cam shafts and u-joints for leading automobile companies. ThyssenKrupp offers three internships. Internship opportunities included AutoCAD, High Voltage Electrical blueprint and circuit analysis, and “people” engineering which requires time audits and implementation of process changes to improve production times. Each student works directly with an engineer.

Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program

The State of Illinois Board of Higher Education has granted Danville Area Community College a work-study grant. This grant provides funds to local industries in the hopes of encouraging major-related internships.

Purpose of the Program

1. Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships linked to their major.
2. Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry and government.
3. Create new opportunities for partnerships between the public and private sectors.
4. Reduce the reliance on student loans.
5. Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Details of the Program

1. Grant reimburses employer 50% of wages paid to the student.
2. Grant pays up to \$8.00 hourly.
3. Grant pays for up to 20 hours worked weekly.

Timeomatic: Time-o-matic is a family-owned business based in Danville, IL. They have been manufacturing signs for more than 70 years. They currently build color and monochrome LED message centers as well as red or amber time & temperature signs for North America and beyond. For the last four years, Time-o-matic consistently hires 2-3 DACC engineering interns per year. These students have worked within the engineering department building and testing prototypes, and designing or testing software. With the addition of an electronics department, Time-o-matic hires student to run safety and quality tests on the equipment as well as troubleshoot the electronic circuits.

KIK: This local company is one of North America's largest custom manufacturers of both National Brand and Retailer Brand consumer products. KIK's product lines include Laundry, Household Cleaners, OTC Medicated, Pharmaceutical and Health & Beauty Care. They have hired one chemical engineering student who will be conducting several quality tests and product analysis to ensure good product and increase the production efficiency.

City of Danville Engineering: In the last three years, the City of Danville has hired one intern per year. These interns use the GPS system to map sewer lines and street lighting, develop maps using AutoCAD like software, manage blueprint storage, conduct traffic flow analysis, and have even helped design small projects such as baseball parks and driveways for the city transportation system.

Aqua Illinois: The local water company has offered three internships to our student over the course of three years. Students use AutoCAD to map the water lines, conduct surveys for construction projects, and supervise construction for new water works.

Black Beauty: This local mining company has recently come aboard our internship partnership and offers one internship to a student majoring in mining engineering. This student will be working directly with a mining engineer to implement safe and efficient mining practices.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): IDOT offers summer internships when funding is available. Students are expected to supervise construction, survey, and run quality test on building materials.

American Freight (Mervis): This company has offered two internships. One intern worked directly with a local engineer in the demolition of a local factory. The second internship actually employed the student as an engineer. The student designed, built, and implemented safety devices and procedures. This internship required extensive use of AutoCAD and electronics.