
Charlotte, N.C.
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Siemens' first class of U.S. apprentices graduates, national model for skills-based learning

- **Siemens launched an apprenticeship program in 2011 at its Charlotte Energy Hub to create a pipeline of trained workers for the future**
- **Graduates have completed requirements for Associate's Degree in Mechatronics and Journeyman Certification from North Carolina Department of Labor**
- **Based on success of Charlotte apprenticeship program, Siemens has launched a similar program in Fort Payne, Ala.; additional partnerships slated for Sacramento and Atlanta**

Siemens' first class of apprentices in the United States will participate in a graduation ceremony this evening hosted by Apprenticeship 2000 – the Charlotte-based regional apprenticeship partnership. As a national leader in the effort to address America's training gap, Siemens initiated its apprenticeship program in Charlotte in 2011, partnering with Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) to create a pipeline of skilled manufacturing workers for the future.

Tonight's graduation represents the culmination of a four year skills-based learning program that is geared toward preparing students for success in today's advanced manufacturing facilities – which require demonstrated proficiency in the core disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

As members of the first class of apprentices at Siemens' Charlotte Energy Hub, the graduates have received on the job training – with pay and without incurring education debt – while simultaneously pursuing studies at CPCC in mechatronics, which combines the specialties of mechanical, computer, electronic, software control and system design engineering. Siemens' graduates, who are now employees at the company's Charlotte factory, have completed the academic requirements for an

Associate's Degree in mechatronics and have also satisfied the work requirements for a Journeyman Certification from the North Carolina Department of Labor.

"This ceremony is a special milestone for our graduating apprentices. Having completed a rigorous course of study along with demanding on-the-job requirements, they have all the tools they need for a successful start in today's modern factory," said Mark Pringle, Vice President at the Siemens Charlotte Energy Hub. "Our apprentices have shown tremendous commitment and determination, and we look forward to their continued contributions as valued team members."

"With a national need for skilled workers, the success of Siemens' apprenticeship program in Charlotte demonstrates how business leaders can work with educators to develop a trained workforce," said Eric Spiegel, President and CEO of Siemens USA, who served as a member of the President's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) 2.0. "By empowering students with real world skills, we are helping to clear a pathway to the middle class."

Using the German-style apprenticeship model as a guide, Siemens has created public, academic and corporate partnerships to train workers for highly-skilled, well-paying advanced manufacturing jobs. As part of its participation on AMP, Siemens worked with Alcoa and Dow to develop a playbook for other employers seeking to build apprenticeship programs.

Based on the success of the Charlotte apprenticeship program, Siemens has launched a similar program in Fort Payne, Ala. Additional partnerships are slated for Sacramento and Atlanta.

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Siemens Energy in Charlotte is one of the lead facilities in the company's global manufacturing network and serves as the worldwide hub for Siemens 60 Hz power generating equipment. Opened in 1969, the facility has manufactured and serviced generators and steam turbines for the power generation market for decades. In November 2011, the facility celebrated the opening of a new expansion, adding gas turbine production and service capabilities. The new Gas Turbine facility was designed based on LEAN manufacturing principles and is certified to U.S. LEED Gold green building standards. With its current workforce of 1,550 and more than one million square feet of space under roof, Siemens Energy in Charlotte has become one of the largest manufacturers in the city and the third largest among the 250+ Energy companies based in Charlotte. Further information is available at: <http://www.siemens.com/energy/charlotte>

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