

# Kelly R. Reid



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Kelly R. Reid, currently a sophomore at Delaware County Community College, first developed her interests in mechanics by working on projects with her father. Her interests continued to be fed by her attendance at regional Engineering summer camps specifically designed for young women. During her tenure at Springfield High School, she became aware of the Applied Engineering Technology (AET) Academy Program offered in partnership with the Delaware County Technical School and Delaware County Community College. She applied and was accepted to the program as a Machine Tool Technology major. Under her dual enrollment status, she earned nine Delaware County Community College credits, which applied to an associate degree in the Machine Tool program. Upon graduating from Springfield with honors in 2008, Kelly decided that she would pursue her career in an engineering technology program and opted to continue her studies at Delaware County Community College. "The College was able to offer me the program that would lead me to my career goal," said Reid.

Prior to entering as a freshman, she was awarded a \$5,000 competitive scholarship from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and a \$1,000 competitive Engineering Scholarship from Boeing. "I applied for both scholarships to help fund my education," said Reid. "I never thought I would receive both of them. I was truly honored to be selected." Kelly is the 2008-2009 President of Student Chapter #355 of SME. Her goal is to build the chapter membership. SME #355 dedicates itself to promoting the interests of AET majors headed for careers in technology fields that support advanced manufacturing in the region. The student chapter is supported and sponsored by SME Chapter #015 of Philadelphia.

Kelly will earn an associate degree in Machine Tool Technology and intends to continue on to Drexel University and pursue the bachelor of science degree in Applied Engineering Technology. Drexel has partnered with Delaware County Community College for the past seven years with programs that support manufacturing. Through a new partnership, they will be one of potentially eight area universities that offer the final two years of the pathway.

The College also maintains a close relationship with regional industries who support the AET Program offerings and who are interested in hiring graduates of the programs. Synthes (USA), a medical device manufacturer with 1,400 employees in Chester County, is one of those companies. "We have been actively involved with the AET program since its inception," said Mike Sticklin, Human Resources Manager. "Delaware County Community College and its AET program have provided numerous machinists to enable us to manufacture precision medical devices and surgical instruments to hospitals and surgical centers throughout the world. We have been very impressed by the skills exhibited from the students in the AET program."

Sixteen of these business partners form an advisory committee, which meets quarterly and offers support for AET initiatives, including new curriculum that will meet the employment needs of Advanced Manufacturing. "AET Programs involve the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) into six areas of specialization; students receive hands-on/minds-on training in specific skills sets that will support our economy in high priority, high growth jobs," said Dr. Bernie Carrozza, Director of the AET Career Pathways Program at the College. "We have recently received a \$2 million grant from the United States Department of Labor Education and Training Administration to expand AET throughout the southeast region."

Montgomery County Community College, a founding partner in the original Pathways Program, is now joined by Community College of Philadelphia. Together, all three schools will offer options to students in a variety of AET educational programs that will serve our region and support our manufacturing industries. The Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center and the Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development are also partners in the regional initiative.

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