



# Tech programs could help fill the manufacturing gap

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As the Hoover Company prepares to close the book on its North Canton manufacturing facility, area colleges and business leaders are preparing to take the Stark County and Ohio job market into a new technological era.

Monday, at Stark State College of Technology, the Ohio Supercomputer Center – formerly the Third Frontier Network – along with representatives from The Ohio State University, Stark State College and The Timken Company, introduced microscope technology that will bring Ohio education and business together on the cutting edge of learning and manufacturing.

U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula (R- Navarre), who attended the demonstration, believes that integrating cooperative technology into education and business is a fiscally responsible way to establish Stark County and the state in a changing global economy.

“We got the dismal note that the Hoover will be shutting down,” Regula said. “What we need to do is develop more ways to find our people employment opportunities and to compete in the world efficiently.”

This technology, Regula believes, could be one of the answers.

“We are launching something here that will be effective in our community and our state,” Regula said. “This is a key part in our getting ready for the world of tomorrow.”

Students at every university across the state will soon have access to multi-million dollar microscopes that were demonstrated Monday. They can be controlled through remote access gained through a secure Internet-like connection. The network, established by the OSC, is the first in the nation to allow professionals and students to gain remote access to research and control equipment in real time.

The microscopes, said Hamish Fraser, director of the OSU Center for Accelerated Maturation of Materials (CAMM), “have magnification up to the atomic level.”

Getting to the molecular base of the samples is critical, according to Fraser, and beneficial to companies like Timken, which was one of the first companies on board.

“We can’t compete with (global) companies in terms of cost,” said Jeffrey Dafler, manager of global media and government affairs for the Timken Company. “What we do then is technology advancement. We need to be pushing the technology forward and continually improving our products for our clients.”

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