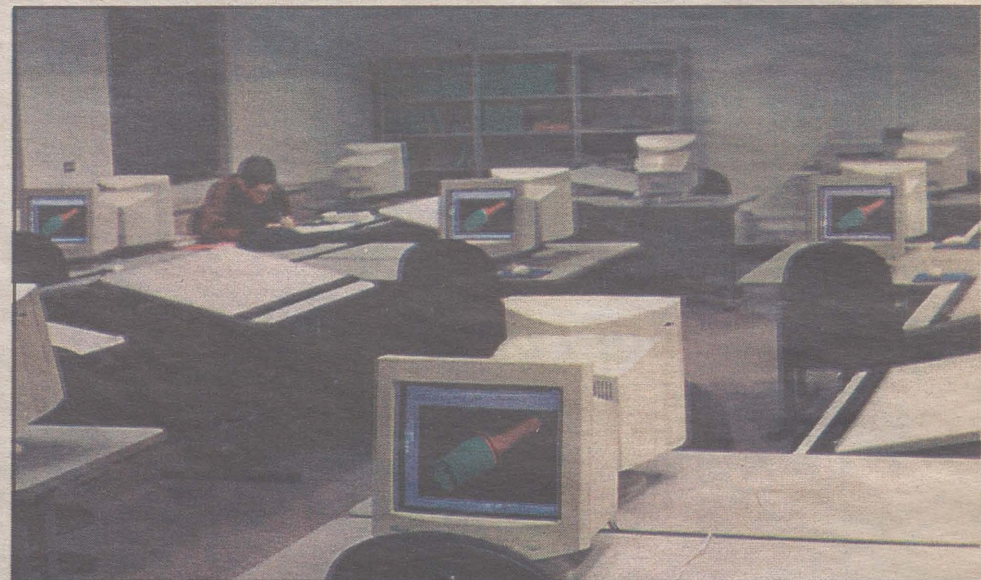


ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION MATCHES PRIVATE DONATIONS

# Major renovations moving ACC drafting and design program 'beyond T-square technology'



THE OLD AND THE NEW — One by one, the old drafting tables were removed last summer (above, left) by Rich Grochowski of the ACC maintenance staff. New when Besser Technical Center opened in 1963, they had served long and well. In order to give greater emphasis to the computer technology now involved in mechanical and architectural drafting and design, a major investment was made to renovate and upgrade facilities and equipment. The results include work stations for 20 students and one instructor. The same screen visible on all student monitors (above, right) comes from

the video-switching system, the first installed at ACC. It allows the instructor to project any source screen to all student computers and is an advance in instructional technology beyond an overhead computer projection system. Instructor Kathy Dapprich said that tables were included in the new student computer work stations because learning manual fundamentals gives an important foundation for understanding and problem-solving in computer aided design. For program information, contact Dapprich at the ACC Alpena Campus, (517) 356-9021 Ext. 224. (ACC photos by Carlene Przykucki)

**K**eeping technical and occupational programs current with technology and the needs of employers is one of the most challenging and expensive aspects of budgeting and planning at Alpena Community College. Over the past several years, for example, the drafting and design area integrated computer-aided components into the curriculum by sharing

a computer lab with several other programs. The advisory committee and instructor Kathy Dapprich knew a more thorough emphasis was needed on the computer technology now involved in this career area. It was time to finish the move beyond T-square technology.

With good regional and national employment opportunities, the investment needed to upgrade the program made sense, but the pricetag for comprehensive electrical work, cabling, lighting, furnishings, computers, printers and software exceeded \$90,000. To accomplish the ambitious goal, cooperative efforts in public and private funding were required. Donations of over \$23,000 from individuals and businesses with an interest in this field were matched by the Alpena Community College Foundation and added to funding from the federal Perkins Vocational Act and the ACC budget.

In addition to the obvious benefits, the renovation is having a positive ripple effect. Students in the pre-engineering and machine tool technology programs are also able to use the computers and specialized software. This takes pressure off other computer labs which must carry software for and serve students in business information systems, science and math courses.

Dapprich is also pleased that the upgrade will add AutoCAD to the curriculum. This program is popular in the work place and will join CADKEY in ACC courses.

"We are fully renovating the curriculum to match the state of the art facility," she said. "A goal of the revision is to make courses more accessible with one- and two-credit offerings." These make it easier to articulate with high school programs and allow people to upgrade skills without having to spend time in a class covering what they already know.

The new curriculum is expected to take effect with the 1998 Fall Semester. Dapprich is also proposing that the name of the program be changed to "Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Technology." Upon approval by the ACC Curriculum Committee, program proposals go to ACC President Donald Newport for final approval.

**T**hose whose donations helped transform the drafting and design technology facilities were invited by the ACC Foundation to see the results at an informal reception in November.

Names of the following contributors to the 1997 drafting & design technology lab renovation project are displayed near the door on a special "Beyond T-Square Technology" plaque.

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| <b>ACC Foundation</b><br><i>Marcellus Technology Fund</i> | <b>MEARS/HDD, Inc.</b><br><i>Rosebush, Michigan</i>      |
| <b>Autodesk</b><br><i>San Rafael, California</i>          | <b>Omni Metalcraft Corp.</b><br><i>Alpena</i>            |
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