Prepare for work with training in demand driven occupations

For more than 30 years VR’s Information Technology (IT) Training Center has prepared and placed South Carolinians with disabilities in computer-related fields. The training allows consumers to fully compete in today’s technology-driven job market.

**Business Applications Plus (BAP)**
BAP prepares consumers for careers in customer service and office support. This includes instruction and hands-on experience in business communications, keyboarding, recordkeeping, and the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook). Consumers may have the opportunity to complete several MS Office Specialist (MOS) certifications, including Word, Outlook and Excel. Length: 7 months.

**Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)**
CAD centers on the development of entry-level technicians who are proficient in 3D CAD fundamentals, and mechanical and civil design applications. Consumers may have the opportunity to complete AutoCAD and SolidWorks certification. Length: 11 months.

**Networking and Server Support (NSS)**
NSS addresses the needs of industries for qualified applicants with the basic concepts and fundamentals of PC, network, server support, and helpdesk applications. Consumers may have the opportunity to complete CompTIA A+, Network+ and Server+ certification. Length: 11.5 months.

**Office Review & Certification (ORC)**
ORC provides consumers with prior training or experience in a profession requiring strong Microsoft Office skills, the opportunity to review and upgrade their skills. Consumers may have the opportunity to complete MS Office Specialist (MOS) certifications, including Word, Outlook and Excel. Length: 8 weeks.

**Business Oriented Applications (BOA)**
BOA provides training customized to meet business needs for employees who are proficient in specific applications. Length: time frame varies by individual need.

“The energy and enthusiasm of the ITTC staff helped me and my classmates get jobs.”
— John Baker, former consumer
Rock Hill area VR consumers are being introduced to the exciting, cutting-edge technology of three-dimensional printing, thanks to 3-D Systems, a leading provider of 3-D printing design-to-manufacturing solutions. In addition to employment opportunities, this technology has immense potential in assistive technology products for people with disabilities.

“During the subassembly process for 3-D Systems, VR consumers follow a highly technical multistep procedure where the skins [outer covers] of the printers are built,” explains Phil Hall, Job Readiness Training Coordinator.

“The consumers in the Training Center help provide the fine detail work for the look of the machines,” says Debbi Beebe, Director, MJP Programs and Engineering Services at 3-D Systems. “We have hired several VR consumers because they have become so efficient in this process.”

“Our partnership with 3-D Systems has been very rewarding,” adds Hall. “They have allowed us to grow with them and provide valuable training opportunities to VR consumers for more than five years.”

“3-D Systems has partnered with VR on many levels including high level contract work and employment opportunities, plus providing tours for our High School/High Tech students,” explains Tina Stuber, Business Development Specialist.

3-D printers are also revolutionizing the field of assistive technology. In collaboration with EksoBionics, 3-D Systems recently printed a robotic suit that has enabled an individual who is paralyzed from the waist down to walk.

Paul McCarthy, from Marblehead Massachusetts, was researching assistive technology options for his son, Leon, who was born without fingers on one hand. That’s when McCarthy came across a video on YouTube about how to use a 3-D printer to make a prosthetic hand. McCarthy borrowed a friend’s 3-D printer, and in a month learned how to string, screw and bolt together a functioning prosthetic hand for his son for under $10.

Months before Leon and his father discovered 3-D printing, Michael Morgan, SCVRD Information Technology Training Center (ITTC) Instructor, realized that rapid prototyping could help his AutoCAD students make their designs into reality.

“The goal was to be able to produce machine parts as part of the pre-manufacturing process,” explains Morgan.

One week after the 3-D printer arrived, the students had pulled the same plans from the internet that McCarthy had used and produced a fully-operational prosthetic hand.

“I can see many opportunities in the future for these students to assist us in our fabrication efforts, as well as when we develop unique custom devices for our consumers to use in the employment setting,” says Tom Jackman, Rehabilitation Technology Engineering Supervisor.

Through the partnership with 3-D Systems, and the training provided at the ITTC, VR consumers today receive valuable training and employment opportunities.