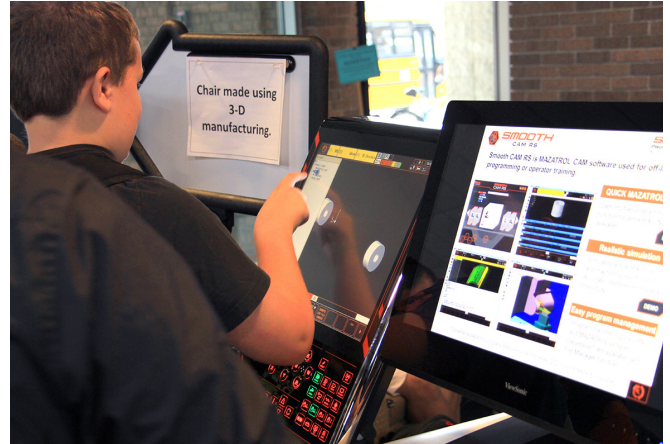


HUNDREDS ATTEND CONFERENCE TO LEARN ABOUT NEXT “BIG THING” IN MANUFACTURING

Additive manufacturing. It's what some manufacturers are saying could be the next “big thing” in manufacturing, and nearly 300 people turned out for a recent two-day conference to hear from leaders in the field and learn more about it.

Moraine Park Technical College hosted the conference at its West Bend Campus, Nov. 12 and 13, and if the strong attendee turnout was any indicator, additive manufacturing is a process manufacturers will be seeing more of in the future.

“We had a really positive response from attendees at the conference,” said Pete Rettler, dean of the West Bend campus, who coordinated the event. “Nearly 100 businesses and Moraine Park students attended on Thursday and nearly 200 area high school students attended on Friday to learn about from the experts what additive manufacturing is all about.”



Area high school students explored additive manufacturing software during the Additive Manufacturing Conference.

Additive manufacturing is similar to 3D-printing with the addition of advanced materials including metals, which allow the printing of parts suitable for end use applications. According to Rettler, some manufacturing experts predict that additive manufacturing is the next big thing for manufacturing, while others believe it may not drastically change the world of manufacturing. Regardless of their views, manufacturers likely will need to take note of how additive or some type of hybrid additive/subtractive processes may become a necessary part of their business plan. Moraine Park teamed with Mazak Corporation, a global leader in the production of advanced machine tools and Machinery Systems Inc., a local retailer of Mazak machines, to present this two-day conference. Day one of the conference was targeted at area manufacturers who were interested in additive or hybrid manufacturing. Peter Zelinski, Editor of Modern Machine Shop Magazine, was the keynote speaker.

On day two, Moraine Park hosted Washington County high school juniors and seniors to showcase modern manufacturing with an emphasis on additive. Jon Baklund, President/CTO of Baklund R&D LLC, an innovative manufacturing company based in Hutchinson, Minn. was the keynote for day two of the event where he looked to inspire students to consider a manufacturing career.

“Jon and his wife Tara knew how to connect with today’s high school students,” said Rettler. “He encouraged them to use their smart phones to tweet questions and give feedback. The students really enjoyed the presentation.” For more information regarding additive manufacturing visit [Additive Manufacturing](#). To learn more about Moraine Park’s manufacturing programs, go to morainepark.edu/programs.