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Saskatchewan Polytechnic

SCHOOL OF MINING, ENERGY AND MANUFACTURING

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Robotics, computer-controlled production and 3-D printing are all driving the evolution of the manufacturing industry and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's manufacturing programs are fueled by the same technology.

Students are able to work on their own piece of equipment like Haas Computer Numerical Control (CNC) 2-axis lathes and Haas mini-mills when they learn entry-level skills, says Innovative Manufacturing Program Head Phil Ursulescu. Students then progress to designing prototypes on a large-format 3-D printer, and learn higher-level manufacturing skills on a 5-axis CNC mill, live tooling lathe or Kuka robots.

The Design and Manufacturing Engineering Technology (DMET) program in Saskatoon features a recently retooled curriculum and the opportunity for students to work on numerous leading-edge manufacturing technologies, explains program head Tim Muench.

Equipment includes industrial 3D printers that handle materials such as metal, carbon fibre and Kevlar-reinforced plastics, a laser scanner that converts objects to accurate CAD models, CNC machines to cut parts, and a welding robot.

This wide exposure ensures that graduates are leaders when they are hired by industry notes DMET graduate Joey Lorer. "Because you have a lot of hands-on experience when you graduate you have a portfolio that you can take to a future employer."

Both DMET and Electronic Systems Engineering Technology (ESET), also in Saskatoon, feature collaborative robots, or cobots, that can safely work beside humans. ESET's eight Omron cobots will be augmented with an LD-60 mobile robot. Program head Chris Roslinsky explains that students will learn to become manufacturing system integrators, qualified to push industry ahead in its continuing evolution.



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