Wilson Academy of Applied Technology
Half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a four-year college degree, and these jobs pay $53,000 on average—a wage 10 percent higher than jobs with similar educational requirements. Half of all STEM jobs are in manufacturing, health care, or construction industries. Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations...
Today, there are two STEM economies. The professional STEM economy of today is closely linked to graduate school education, maintains close links with research universities, but functions mostly in the corporate sector. It plays a vital function in keeping American businesses on the cutting edge of technological development and deployment.
The second STEM economy draws from high schools, workshops, vocational schools, and community colleges. These workers today … are critical to the implementation of new ideas, and advise researchers on feasibility of design options, cost estimates, and other practical aspects of technological development. Skilled technicians produce, install, and repair the products and production machines…
The Solution

• Create an educational program that blends the teaching of Foundational, Core Technical, and Occupation-Related skills

• Provide this education in an environment that simulates a modern manufacturing plant
  o Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
  o Quality Control Management
  o Safety Requirements

• Provide students with exposure to professional opportunities and experience in the occupation of their choice
Partnerships

• Co-designed by:
  - Wilson County Schools
  - Wilson Community College
  - Wilson Economic Development Council
  - Wilson Industrial Management Council
  - Industry Leaders
Program Components

Students will:

• Complete a five year early college program
• Earn high school diploma & Associates of Applied Science or Associates of Science Degree
• Earn industry-recognized certifications
• Partake in hands-on technical labs
• Participate in practicum and internship experiences
Potential Pathways & Certifications

- Applied Engineering Technology
- Automation Engineering Technology
- Mechatronics Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- College Transfer
- North Carolina Career Readiness Certification
- OSHA Certification
- Six Sigma Certification
- ISO 9000 Certification
Connecting Education to North Carolina Manufacturing

- Relevant
- Fills a Missing Niche
- Dually Beneficial - students and industries
- Replicable within the confines of any given economy
- Scalable
The “Applied Academy” is one Solution

“Workforce Development”

Wilson Academy of Applied Technology

Is a potential solution to help prepare more students within a “Non-traditional learning environment to be ready after high school to enter today’s increasingly advanced manufacturing environment.”
Sean Bulson
Superintendent of Schools
Wilson County Schools

Rusty Stephens
President
Wilson Community College