

## CAREERS IN TECHNOLOGY THE FOCUS FOR 500 STUDENTS AT EASTEC

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA (2/11/09) [Manufacturers will need to fill hundreds of thousands of jobs over the next decade.](#) An aging workforce expected to retire during that period will open the doors to stable, good paying jobs for vocational school, community college, and on the job training program graduates.

Students and teachers can learn more about these opportunities through [EASTEC](#) and its [Careers In Technology Program](#). Registration for the free May 21<sup>st</sup> day-long program has already started and is open to students and teachers in grades 8-12. Careers In Technology is expected to attract over 500 students who will be able to tour the exhibits, talk to manufacturers, and participate in a design competition.

“At EASTEC, our students can see the newest, most sophisticated manufacturing equipment and tooling in the world,” notes David Cruise Director of Business & Employment Services at the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County. “It gets them excited about careers in manufacturing.”

The “[Model Mania](#),” design competition allows students to test their skills by creating a 3-dimensional model in 20 minutes. Participating students receive a free Design Competition Kit containing [SolidWorks](#) Software with a 150-day license, practice exercises, and access to online tutorials. SolidWorks donates the software each year and their staff volunteers to manage the competition. There is also approximately \$600,000 in scholarship assistance available through EASTEC sponsor, the [Society of Manufacturing Engineers](#) (SME).

### About EASTEC

EASTEC, the largest manufacturing event on the East Coast, is co-sponsored by SME, the [American Machine Tool Distributors' Association](#), and the [Association for Manufacturing Technology](#). The event celebrates its 30-year anniversary on May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> at the [Eastern States Exhibition](#) in [West Springfield, MA](#), and is expected to draw over 14,000 attendees and 600 exhibitors. Spread over 160,000 square feet, EASTEC consists of five technology-focused areas: Precision Manufacturing Equipment and Systems; Automation, Supply Chain and Process Improvement; Plant, Energy, and Environmental Efficiency; Design Engineering and Rapid Technologies; and Tooling, Workholding, and Machining Accessories. Attendees can also learn how to maximize their use of technology and learn about leading edge, cost effective approaches through four new EASTEC Resource Centers: Lean & Green, Energy, Medical, and Aerospace & Defense.

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