

STAND OUT. STAND ABOVE.

Success Story



**KENTUCKY OFFICE OF CAREER
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Location:
Kentucky

Program Enrollment:
• 50 students per year

Success Metrics:

- Validates computer-aided drafting skills.
- Provides students with opportunity to earn community college credit.
- Industry-recognized certification builds resumes.



Kentucky Prepares Drafting Students for Workforce with Certification

Computer-Aided Drafting Program Incorporates Autodesk® Certified User Certification



CHALLENGE

The Kentucky Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) is responsible for administration of the Kentucky Tech system, which includes 53 Area Technology Centers (ATCs) strategically located in small to medium-sized communities throughout the state.

The primary purpose of the Kentucky ATCs is to prepare students for college and a career with a vision to actively engage all students in the mastery of academic and technical skills. Programs are geared toward high school juniors and seniors, and all 53 ATCs have industry-certified programs and teachers.

The Kentucky OCTE aims to offer a nationally-recognized certification in conjunction with each Kentucky ATC program. However, the computer-aided drafting (CAD) program did not have an industry certification available to students.

“The students in our drafting program take drafting fundamentals, followed by computer-aided drafting where they learn skills from the most popular and in-demand industry software programs,” said Terry Miller, Academic Consultant for Manufacturing Programs.

“We wanted to add a certification to the program to help students validate their skills and then advance to learn more complicated concepts.”

Terry Miller

Academic Consultant for
Manufacturing Programs

“When they apply for their first jobs and they are already AutoCAD- or Inventor-certified, I am confident it is going to help.”

Carl Owens

Drafting instructor,
Barren County ATC

ABOUT CERTIPOINT

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SOLUTION

Miller heard about a new Autodesk® certification for CAD students from Andrew Rittmeier, a representative for Technical Training Aids. Technical Training Aids supplies Kentucky with equipment and software for CAD systems. Rittmeier told Miller that Certiport was launching two Autodesk exams that would fit perfectly into the CAD programs - AutoCAD® Certified User and Autodesk Inventor® Certified User.

Miller wrote a Perkins Grant and received funding for the certifications as part of a pilot program.

Kentucky OCTE wants to have all instructors certified in the programs they are teaching, so work began on this initiative by having drafting instructors certified on the Autodesk exams. Certiport partnered to provide certification training at a five-day workshop over the summer, where nine instructors earned the AutoCAD Certified User certification and seven earned the Autodesk Inventor Certified User certification.

Carl Owens, drafting instructor at the Barren County ATC, took the lead on the project and played an integral part in helping Kentucky OCTE adopt the program. “Although we were already exploring the Autodesk drafting programs in our courses, once I took the Autodesk exams I realized we were going to need a curriculum to teach all of the necessary concepts and prepare students for certification,” Owens said.

Owens developed a student study guide for the AutoCAD and Autodesk Inventor exams, and then shared the materials with Certiport and other Kentucky schools offering the certification program. Once the curriculum was ready, Barren County ATC became a Certiport Authorized Testing Center.

Barren County ATC drafting students take Drafting Fundamentals, followed by CAD 1 and CAD 2. Owens carved out two weeks in CAD 2 so that students could study and take the certification exams.

RESULTS

Students from 18 campuses across the state of Kentucky are now participating in the Autodesk User Certification Program. The schools get points and recognition in Kentucky’s accountability system for public schools when students reach certification.

Kentucky Tech’s curriculum is aligned with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), which means students can earn credit at the community college level by



taking these courses and earning certification. Certification allows students to instantly gain course credit and test into higher-level courses when they attend college.

“All of our programs have a written knowledge test and a performance test,” says Miller. “With Certiport, it takes care of itself -- students take the Autodesk exams and validate both performance and written knowledge with one test.”

During the first semester the course was offered at Barren County ATC, approximately 85 percent of students who took the Autodesk exams passed on the first attempt and 100 percent passed by the second attempt.

“Two-thirds of my first group of students who took the certification are going to college, and the other third are juniors in high school,” said Owens.

Miller says one of the highest priorities at the Kentucky OCTE is to give students marketable skills. “We offer certification to try to put skills in our students’ back pockets. We want them to be able to walk into a job with a nationally-recognized certification so the employer knows the student has the skills to do the appropriate level of work.”