

# MCC Automation & Industrial Technology Instructor **maintains** high **standards** for her students

**D**ebbie Dawson-Gunther enjoys “watching the light bulb go on” when her students understand a new concept.

Dawson-Gunther joined Montcalm Community College’s full-time faculty as its Automation & Industrial Technology Instructor in January 2019, after teaching as a part-time instructor at the college. Since then, she has revised automation curriculum while teaching automation and computer support technology classes and working in the skilled trades open lab on MCC’s Greenville campus.

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*– Debbie Dawson-Gunther*

“An educator is responsible for creating an environment that is conducive to learning – a place where students are able to turn ideas, theories and concepts into practical skills,” Dawson-Gunther said. “In the technical arena, this environment must also provide students with foundational knowledge and the desire for lifelong learning in order to meet the changing needs in industry.”

With more than 25 years of industry and teaching experience, Dawson-Gunther said she has had the unique opportunity to contribute to the shaping of society and the future.

“As a professional engineer, I place an emphasis on my own professional development allowing me to enhance curriculum and provide service with the most relevant industry knowledge possible,” she said. “As an educator, I

have developed and delivered relevant programs to meet both student and industry needs.

“I maintain high standards for my students,” she said. “It is important that I help them learn how to learn, how to effectively solve problems and how to judge the long-range impact of their solutions and recommendations on society.

“I challenge them in ways that will benefit them and provide a sense of accomplishment,” she added.

A dedicated lifelong learner herself, Dawson-Gunther is serving as the primary investigator for a National Science Foundation grant that MCC was awarded to address the ongoing gap in technical education for skilled trades, specifically aimed at new high school graduates and women.

“This is an amazing opportunity to further develop curriculum to engage students and work to overcome the challenges of recruiting people into automation manufacturing careers,” Dawson-Gunther said. ■



*MCC Automation & Industrial Technology Instructor Debbie Dawson-Gunther demonstrates a concept using the FANUC robot in the lab on the college's Greenville campus.*