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## Community College fast tracks automated industrial technology careers



(/uploads/original/20220628-152724-MCC cobot.jpg)

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Mesa Community College student Raichelle Castillo-Curtis with a cobot.**

Posted Wednesday, June 29, 2022 7:50 am

Mesa Community College's automated industrial technology program offers certificates and degrees for students wanting to learn to work with robots, including the increasingly popular cobots, which work alongside humans. ☒

Automated industrial technology skills are increasingly used in many fields and industries. At Mesa Community College, students learn to troubleshoot and make modifications to automated industrial equipment, according to a release from the college.

They work with machines involved in businesses including semiconductor manufacturing, pharmaceutical production, and distribution such as in big warehouses where robots move boxes on conveyor belts and materials out.



“This is a great industry for exciting tech careers and good salaries. The work is hands-on, interesting and you are involved in creating products that benefit people and the community,” Ken Hackler, director of the MCC automated industrial technology program, said, “For someone without experience in industrial automation, pursuing cobots and robots training by taking the AIT program greatly increases your chance of finding a good job. For someone already working in the field, coming back and taking the robotics classes offers an opportunity to move up. Most of my students graduating this spring semester are finding jobs starting at \$30 an hour with just the certifications. The demand is growing.”

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robots, cobots are smaller, can be moved easily by workers and h require buffer areas from human contact.

en around for decades, over the past five years cobots have become free shortages. Cobots are ideal for work that is repetitive and req sses find they can increase accuracy, safety and production with c

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and supervising the machines to perform their functions, not sitting is a very small amount of programming using Python, and we a Valley in the MCC Downtown Center) to provide those classes for

Sebastian Yazzie, an MCC automated industrial technology student, shared that his employer is supporting him going to school because demand for these jobs is so high. The company uses robots mainly to pick and place, grab products, scan barcodes, label that product and ship it to the patient.

MCC offers classes on cobots and standard robots. The AIT270 Robotics I class features the Universal Robot’s Cobot and Learning Management System, where students interact directly with the cobot to program multiple applications such as pick and place, and palletizing as well as controlling an external conveyor and receiving input from external sensors to stop and start the conveyor.

The AIT275 Robotics II class teaches students to program the FANUC Robotics handling tool system along with vision systems, where the robot makes decisions based on the vision camera to sort or perform rejections of parts based on programmed parameters. AIT270 and AIT275 are part of the AIT certification programs and the associate of applied science in automated industrial technology.

In addition to the AIT CCL1 and AIT CCL 2 certification, also offered is the universal robot educational certification in AIT270, the FANUC robot education certification in AIT275, and the MCCCDC robotics mini certification for completing both robotic classes and the AIT100 industrial safety.

There is a great deal of information about the program and certificates as well as career opportunities offered on the AIT website. Hackler says if businesses or students have questions, email him at [kennith.hackler@mesacc.edu](mailto:kennith.hackler@mesacc.edu). Register for fall 2022 classes at [mesacc.edu/enroll](http://mesacc.edu/enroll) (<https://www.mesacc.edu/enroll>).

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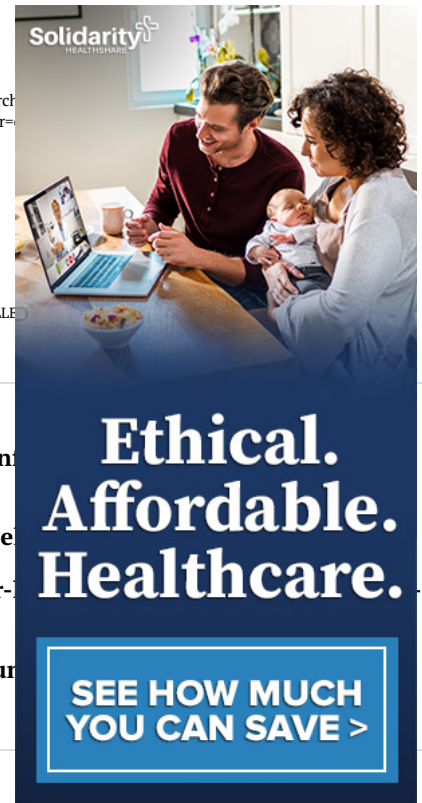
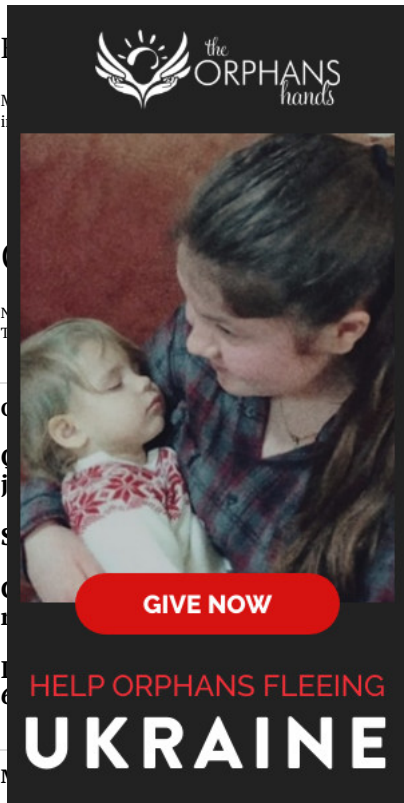
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12 hours ago

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Now at 92, Lorimor has just returned from yet another incredible, record-breaking feat: Hiking the Inca Trail in Peru for her birthday right before hiking in Machu Picchu. #AZNEWSMEDIA #MachuPicchu

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