

OP-TEC at Camden County College

OP-TEC
National Center for Optics and Photonics Education



Camden County College (CCC) in Blackwood, New Jersey, is a partner college in OP-TEC: The National Center for Optics and Photonics Education, a collaborative project funded through the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. The OP-TEC partners—two-year colleges, ATE grant recipients, high schools, universities, national laboratories, and professional societies—are committed to increasing the pool of well-trained technicians in optics and photonics by creating a secondary-to-postsecondary “pipeline” of highly qualified and strongly motivated students. OP-TEC will serve one- and two-year postsecondary programs devoted specifically to lasers, optics, and photonics technology as well as programs devoted to high-demand technologies that are *enabled* by optics and photonics, such as biomedicine, manufacturing, information technology, and engineering.

CCC started its laser electro-optic program in 1976. At that time the program operated out of one small laboratory with minimal equipment. In 1989 the college opened the nationally recognized Laser Institute of Technology for Education and Research (LITER), a state-of-the-art facility funded by the state of New Jersey. LITER's fifteen laboratories house cutting-

edge equipment in lasers, optics, and telecommunication, including optical time domain reflectometers, optical spectrum analyzers, XFP transreceivers, EZ raman spectrophotometers, farfield beam profilers, and automated interferometers, among others. LITER constantly updates its equipment and inventory through both state and federal grants such as New Jersey workforce grants and National Science Foundation equipment and program grants, along with private grants from industries that support the college's program in photonics.

LITER's photonics faculty members (three full-time, three part-time) specialize in lasers, electro-optics, crystals, and telecommunication. Five of the six have doctorates in their fields. The photonics curriculum at CCC is reviewed and updated frequently to ensure that it is up-to-date in areas such as networking methods, LAN (including topologies and protocols, high-

speed LANs, area networking, and interfacing), digital networks (including synchronous optical networks), ADSL, and cellular communication.

CCC articulates with three four-year institutions: Rowan University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Drexel University. CCC and the photonics program also have 4+2 career pathway agreements with local

Areas of Specialization

Laser Electro-Optics
Fiber-Optics Technology
Laser Safety in Educational Institutions
Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM)

high schools and technical schools. Because of the program's fiber-optics option, CCC acts as a regional training center for teachers and students in that field. The photonics program works closely with and provides training for several local employers, including Metrologic, Coherent Lasers, Bell Labs, Lucent Technology, Precision Laser Specialists, and Edmund Scientific.

Many of the program's graduates are now presidents of their own companies or serve in high-level technical administrative and management positions, both in this country and abroad. Those graduates, who are frequently asked to serve on LITER's advisory boards, have established the international reputation of the photonics program at Camden County College.



**For more information on OP-TEC
at Camden County College**

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