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## 8th Annual Manufacturing Careers Day *SRC/SRCTec and Marquardt Switches Host and Sponsor*

Two MACNY member companies opened their doors on October 6 to introduce students and teachers to their high tech advanced manufacturing facilities – SRC/SRCTec in North Syracuse and Marquardt Switches in Cazenovia. PEB and MACNY coordinated this year’s Manufacturing Careers Day, one of hundreds of events held that were part of National Manufacturing Careers Day ([www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com)).

At SRCTec, students and teachers saw a variety of manufacturing careers represented, including some not typically associated with this industry by students: 3-D printing, Visual Communication Tools, Lean Distribution Practices, Human Resources, Statistics, Laser Etching, Program and Supplier Management, SolidWorks Modeling, Accounting, and Inventory Metrics. Hands-on demonstrations were provided at some of the tour stops as well as simulations in the Anechoic Chamber, automated test equipment and more. Important non-technical competencies, such as emotional intelligence, team building, and business acumen were discussed. Story-boards were on display to tie the tour stops to education and professional disciplines and their correlation to salaries, required degrees, etc. A “passport” was provided to each student which highlighted the technology, manufacturing processes and careers they observed at each tour stop.

Marquardt Switches began the morning with a welcome address from Kirk Wardell, company President. The company produces electronic switches, controls and switching systems used in the automobile industry and for power tools and household appliances. Nearly 100 students and teachers donned anti-static jackets and foot straps which were needed in order to take a tour of the manufacturing floor. The students were introduced to demonstrations of some of the equipment manufactured right in Cazenovia and toured several departments including the tool room, shipping and receiving, assembly and electrical production.



NYS Commissioner of  
Education, MaryEllen Elia

In addition to the student tours and demonstrations, a Business/Education Leadership Forum was held at SRCTec prior to the students’ visit. Mary Pat Hartnett, SRCTec President, welcomed the leaders. The featured guest was the NYS Education Department Commissioner, MaryEllen Elia. The Commissioner shared her perspectives on the importance of business engagement in programs such as P-TECH and CTE (Career & Technical Education). A panel discussion, facilitated by David Freund from MACNY, focused on two of the P-TECH programs focused on high-tech manufacturing careers – one at Auburn High School and one at the Institute of Technology in the Syracuse City School District. Superintendents Jeff Pirozzolo and Jaime Alicea discussed how the program is being implemented, how having career coaches/mentors helps students aspire to achieving higher goals, and the positive impact that it already has on the pathways to manufacturing/tech jobs in our community.

One of the company partners for the Syracuse P-TECH program – United Radio – was represented by James Branche, their Human Resources Manager, who is also a long-standing P-TECH career coach/mentor. James spoke about the return on investment for those businesses that have partnered with the P-TECH programs and how it is producing talented, work-ready candidates for employment. James has first-hand knowledge because United Radio hired three P-TECH students to work at the company this past summer! One of the students, Robert Felder, shared the student perspective on what it was like working in a manufacturing/technology company.

Over 400 students and teachers participated in this year's Manufacturing Careers Day. Students from ESM, Marcellus, Syracuse Academy of Science, Solvay, and West Genesee high schools visited SRCTec, along with students from the Le Moyne College/Syracuse University Liberty Partnership Program, OCM BOCES, and the Syracuse P-TECH Program. Marquardt Switches hosted students from Cazenovia, Stockbridge Valley, and VVS high schools, plus another cohort of students from the Syracuse P-TECH Program.

Many thanks to our sponsors who helped make this event possible:

SRC  
Marquardt Switches  
AT&T  
Corning  
Lockheed Martin  
Volpi  
Cryomech  
Currier Plastics  
INFICON  
Schneider Packaging Equipment  
WestRock  
Baker Hughes/GE Inspection  
Bo-Mer Plastics  
EJ USA  
Morse Manufacturing

Interested in hosting students at your facility or to be a career coach/mentor for P-TECH students in Syracuse or Auburn?

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*From top to bottom: Students learn about the switches made at Marquardt; SRCTec's Quality Engineering Technician demonstrates an automated Coordinate Measuring Machine; Students enter SRC's anechoic chamber; Students visiting Marquardt Switches wear anti-static jackets on manufacturing floor.*