CBIA program aims to recruit students in manufactul

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) has received an \$884,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to help prepare the state's technical high school students for careers in manufacturing.

"Recruiting students for manufacturing is a formidable task for the technical high schools and community colleges," said Lauren Kaufman, CBIA vice president of education and job training and executive director of the association's Education Foundation. "Manufacturers require more sophisticated skills today, and students haven't always received the kind of training that manufacturers require. The success of this program will be contingent upon close collaboration with our local manufacturers.'

The grant, Pipeline from the Technical High Schools to the College of Technology, focuses on recruiting and retaining students in manufacturing, as well as helping them obtain academic and employability skills to succeed in postsecondary education or employment after high school.

Kaufman said particular emphasis will be put on helping get necessary math, science and language skills so they will not be required to take remedial training before entering the work force or taking courses in college.

The grant will also focus on giving educators work-based learning experiences to keep them current with industry practices. The program will offer school-to-career opportunities, such as student and teacher internships, job shadowing, company visits,

Computer engineering accredited at Fairfield U

For the first time, Fairfield University's computer and software engineering programs received accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

It also marks the first time all four of Fairfield University's undergraduate programs in the School of Engineering received accreditation. The school also offers programs in electrical and mechanical engineering.

Dean Evangelos Hajimichael said ABET accreditation makes a strong impression with students and employers. ABET, which is based in Baltimore, accredits 2,700 science and technology programs at 550 schools nationally.

Some 5,000 students attend Fairfield University.

– Alexander Soule

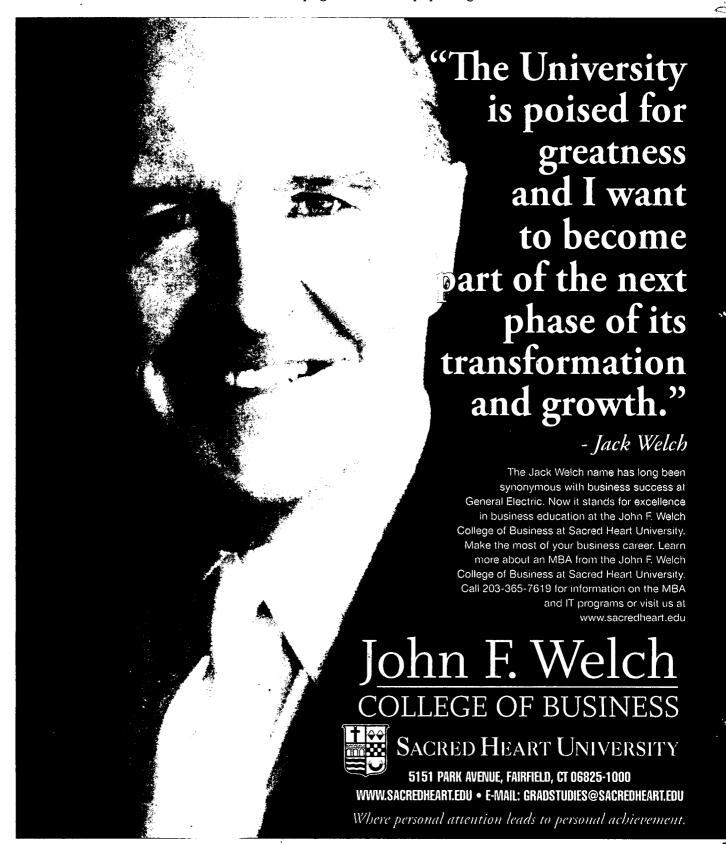
math labs, employability skills workshops, teacher professional development workshops and apprenticeship programs.

The grant will complement the work being done through the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, a National

Science Foundation Center grant administered through the Connecticut Community College's College of Technology (COT). CBIA is the primary business partner for the regional center.

"The program will better prepare high

school students for entry into the technical programs offered by the community colleges and high-wage careers in advanced manufacturing," said Karen Wosczyna-Birch, director of the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing.



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