



Thursday, July 15, 2004

Automation Alley director joins OU advisory board

Thomas Anderson, director of the Automation Alley Technology Center, has been appointed to the Oakland University **School of Engineering and Computer Science** (SECS) Advisory Board by board president and SECS Dean Pieter Frick. Anderson will assist the board in creating a well-rounded curriculum to prepare students for the technology industry.

"We're fortunate to have Tom's expertise to help guide the department through the ever-changing technology field," Frick said. "Students also will benefit from having a direct connection to Automation Alley."

The SECS Advisory Board provides ongoing input to the Oakland University curriculum development process. It strives to promote leadership in engineering and computer science and provide a channel of communication between the school and business community. As a SECS Advisory Board member, Anderson will promote and represent the needs of technology-driven businesses in Michigan for Oakland University graduates.

"Today's students are so important to the future of technology," Anderson said. "I'm looking forward to working with the board to ensure the curriculum reflects the demands of the industry."

The board's 21 members unanimously voted in favor of Anderson's membership upon Frick's recommendation.

Automation Alley is Southeast Michigan's global technology cluster, connecting government and education with business to attract and retain world-class talent. Conceived in 1999, the Automation Alley member consortium provides a toolbox of resources designed to meet the unique needs of its member companies, which include educational institutions, including Oakland University, government entities, municipalities and businesses from a variety of sectors.

Automation Alley member advantages range from global expansion assistance, recruitment programs, marketing opportunities, numerous educational and informational seminars as well as small business support.

Located within Southeast Michigan's global technology cluster, the **Automation Alley Technology Center** leverages businesses, educators and government to help entrepreneurs bring new technologies to market quicker and more efficiently. Automation Alley Technology Center assistance includes pre-seed and commercialization funding, business plan and strategy development support as well as a powerful network of experts and mentors.

SUMMARY

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