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Lake WA Technical College Opens New Electronics Training Facility

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Lake Washington Technical College (LWTC) recently opened a new electronics training facility at its Kirkland campus that features some of the most advanced electronics training equipment and software in the region. The newly renovated and upgraded facility was developed through LWTC's partnerships with two electronics industry leaders, ED Co., Ltd. and Mentor Graphics.

"The partnerships with the ED Corporation and Mentor Graphics really helps put our electronics program on the map," said Paul Axtell, LWTC dean of industrial technologies. "We will now be the only two-year college in the Pacific Northwest with this type of electronics training equipment and software available for our students."

The ED Corporation, a world-wide electronics company based in Korea, donated six different types of world-class electronics training equipment. The donated equipment includes: advanced robotics, fluid mechatronics, mechatronics, automation, embedded electronics, and communication and information technology.

In addition, the Ed Corporation will continue to provide new electronics training equipment to the college over the next three years. As part of the partnership, the ED Corporation will be able to showcase this equipment to potential U.S. customers.

Mentor Graphics, a leader in electronic software and hardware design solutions based in Wilsonville, Oregon, donated full licenses and support for 27 copies of its Expedition Design Flow software, some of the highest-level electronics design software available today. This is the same powerful electronics design software used by leading manufacturers and companies around the country. Mentor Graphics also donated a dedicated server and 12 Hewlett-Packard high-end computer workstations to the college.

The equipment and software donated by these two companies traditionally has only been available to students at high-end, four-year technical universities.

"The new facility will allow LWTC students to graduate with in-depth knowledge of the latest methods in electronics and printed circuit board design," said Axtell. "Obtaining these skills will greatly enhance their job opportunities in the electronics industry."

A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new electronics facility was held on November 12 at the college. The event was attended by area business, education and government leaders, as well as representatives from the ED Corporation and Mentor Graphics.

For more information about LWTC's Electronics program, interested students can visit www.lwtc.edu/electronics.