

## **Integrated Systems Technology (ITS)**

Under a grant received from the United States Department of Labor, the Engineering and Industrial Technologies division implemented training for displaced and dislocated workers in the area of integrated systems technology. This grant funded the establishment of a state-of-the-art laboratory, an industry-verified curriculum, and tuition for the students. The lab, located at Sinclair's Eaker Street facility, encompasses 3,500 square feet and contains a million dollars worth of modern manufacturing equipment used to teach a multidisciplinary program in electrical, mechanical, and electronic systems. The IST program is being administered jointly by the Mechanical Engineering Technology department and the Montgomery County Job Center, and leads to a short-term certificate in Integrated Systems Technology.

To qualify for this program, students must be identified as dislocated workers, i.e., workers who have no opportunity for recall to their previous jobs. Courses for this eight week, twenty-one credit hour program were first offered in winter quarter 2004. Subjects covered include Hydraulics, Pneumatics, Mechanical Drives, Electrical Control, Motor Control, Power Distribution, and Programmable Logic Controllers.

Displaced workers are referred to the program by the Montgomery County Job and Family Services department. Students receive training in this self-paced program, and after completion of the IST curriculum, are prepared for entry into positions involving Integrated Systems Technology, a high-tech, high wage field with a looming shortage of qualified workers.