



A photo of the type of automated manufacturing cell Waukesha County Technical College will purchase, thanks to the \$188,000 donation to the WCTC Foundation.

Submitted photo

## WCTC receives \$188K donation to buy automated manufacturing cell

PEWAUKEE — The Waukesha County Technical College Foundation has received a \$188,000 donation to purchase an automated manufacturing cell for the college's Automation Systems Technology/Robotics program.

The donation comes from the Lutz Family Foundation. Walter (Terry) Lutz is the past president and owner of Hartford-based Signicast Investment Castings.

Lutz also authored "In Pursuit of Manufacturing Excellence - The Signicast Story," a book that details how the company was transformed into the largest commercial investment casting company in the United States.

Lutz, who holds a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering, hired many WCTC graduates throughout his career with

Signicast. He made the donation to provide current students with world-class technology and support the country's manufacturing sector, a WCTC release said.

"I believe that for the United States to be great it's got to be a producer. It's got to make stuff, and manufacturing is a big part of that," Lutz said. "I hope the donation makes a difference in the fact that students are learning using the latest technology. It's a great incentive for them to gain the skills they need and then go on to apply those skills at their job."

The new FANUC automated manufacturing cell will be located in the college's Integrated Manufacturing Center, which opened last April. Mike Shiels, dean of the college's School of Applied Technologies, said the equipment is widely used in industries through-

out the region.

"This cell will provide our students with real-world applications of how equipment is configured to work together in an automated environment," Shiels said. "It's equipped with a FANUC robot, three-axis machining center, conveyer system and Rockwell programmable logic controllers."

"WCTC is fortunate to have formed relationships with individuals like Terry Lutz who recognize the power of manufacturing and the role that our state's technical colleges play as a significant talent pipeline for employers and driver of our economy," Shiels added.

Nearly 200 students are currently enrolled in WCTC's AST/Robotics associate degree program.

— Freeman Staff