New Cabrillo Facility for 3D Printing Class
MakersFactory & College Announce Relocation to Aptos Campus

Recognizing the synergy between business, non-profit and educational institutions, Cabrillo College and MakersFactory announced the establishment of a new Cabrillo facility for Additive 3D Printing technology, as well as the relocation of MakersFactory to Cabrillo’s campus. This new alliance will bring about greater collaboration, new courses, and increased educational and vocational opportunities for the students of Cabrillo College, for MakersFactory customers, and for the broader Santa Cruz community. MakersFactory moved from its downtown Santa Cruz location to Cabrillo’s Aptos campus on January 1st, 2015.

“This move makes sense from an economical, social and business perspective,” said MakersFactory founder and president Dave Britton. “We’re more centralized, we have a greater audience and we already share the same educational goals with Cabrillo — to educate, inspire and train today’s modern student. We’ve had a warm welcome from Cabrillo and have already begun implementation of a number of programs.”

The first program to launch has been the inclusion of MakersFactory 3D EdTech workshops in the Cabrillo Extension Spring 2015 catalog. The new courses include Youth Programs, Adult Courses and Professional Development. The collaboration with Cabrillo Extension provides a fantastic opportunity to expand course offerings and connect MakersFactory’s expertise to the Cabrillo community.

In April, a new Cabrillo FabLab will be created within the 3D Visual Arts building utilizing MakersFactory 3D Machinery, including state-of-the-art 3D printers (sometimes referred to as “additive” manufacturing equipment), and computer-controlled laser cutters and scanners. By working in conjunction with Cabrillo College’s space, existing infrastructure, and machinery, the MakersFactory can easily integrate their own additive manufacturing machinery and processes into the program.

The vision for the Cabrillo FabLab is rooted in the desire to empower Cabrillo VAPA and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students and faculty with new ways of thinking about design and making that will naturally help bridge the Arts and STEM disciplines, leading to new, STEAM-powered (Science, Technology, Arts and Math) collaborations.

“The co-location of technology in arts divisions across the country, including at such institutions as the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), the Chicago Art Institute School, and Indiana University, has led to all sorts of creative STEAM discoveries and learning opportunities for students in the arts and sciences,” said John Graulcy, Dean of Cabrillo’s Visual, Applied, and Performing Arts Division. “As it does at these other world-class institutions, such cross-disciplinary learning will help to prepare Cabrillo’s graduates with the broad array of skills that are increasingly in demand in the new creative economy.”

Payson McNett, a new Cabrillo art faculty member and Cabrillo alum, has already applied knowledge and experience that he had gathered while overseeing the FabLab at Indiana University. He has already worked with veteran arts faculty to design four new arts courses incorporating these new 3D printer and laser cutting technologies. Pending approval by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, these new courses could be ready to offer as early as spring semester 2016. Graulcy is serving as a catalyst to bring arts and STEM faculty together to explore ways in which Cabrillo students might benefit further from this new partnership with MakersFactory.

“The new partnership with MakersFactory is wonderfully serendipitous, bringing together new faculty hire skill sets with existing faculty desires to explore new ways of making in the arts,” continued Graulcy. “These new techniques and machines along with MakersFactory’s expertise and valuable 3D modeling and game-based learning infrastructure bring the promise of a more cohesive, streamlined educational STEAM pathway that begins in middle-school and runs through high school and community colleges into new vocations or four-year university programs.”

Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. Founded in 1959, Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career, and personal development goals.

MakersFactory is a 3D Learning company committed to advancing the use of technology in education for students, teachers and communities worldwide that teach 21st century skills, Common Core Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards to K-12 classrooms. Founded in 2011, MakersFactory is located in Santa Cruz, California. For more information visit www.makersfactory.com.