



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

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Press Release

For immediate release

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National Apprenticeship Week: High School Students to Explore Advantages of Apprenticeships

Open house events in suburban Chicago first chance to get accepted into coveted ICATT program

Chicago, IL, November 10, 2016 – The cost of higher education continues to rise. At the same time, the skills required by companies seeking to develop a highly skilled workforce are changing constantly. While higher education leaves graduates in debt and with a degree they might not be able to put to immediate use, the ICATT (Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training) program offers German-style dual apprenticeship systems that enable students to earn a salary while learning the skills necessary to succeed in high-demand manufacturing careers. A combination of on-the-job training and job-related instruction, the three-year program allows students to earn a debt-free associate's degree followed by a guaranteed job for at least two years. During National Apprenticeship Week, November 14-17, ICATT will host the following open houses at participating companies, offering high school students and their parents a behind-the-scenes look at this premier dual apprenticeship program and a first chance to secure an interview with the companies:

- Broadview, IL - Monday, November 14, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at Principal Manufacturing
- Bartlett, IL - Tuesday, November 15, 4:30 – 6:30 PM at Wittenstein and Herrmann Ultrasonics
- Schaumburg, IL - Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at Felsomat
- Vernon Hills, IL - Thursday, November 17, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at Richard Wolf Medical Instruments and ZF

The open houses are designed for current high school seniors considering options upon graduation. High school juniors will have the opportunity to get an inside track on summer jobs and internships between junior and senior year. Attendees will tour the facilities of participating companies, gain insights into ICATT, and meet current apprentices as well as hiring managers. The majority of the hosting companies are looking to recruit at least one new apprentice in 2017 and are keen on meeting potential candidates as early as possible.

Students accepted into the third class of ICATT apprentices next year will receive free tuition, an associate's degree, stipend and wages as well as a guaranteed job upon graduation. Apprentices split their time between theoretical training at a community college and on-the-job training at a manufacturing company.

ICATT was created by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest) and a core group of companies. "Our goal is to change the perception of what modern manufacturing is all about. It is a highly-skilled career with plenty of room for advancement that offers a great future for students, especially as baby boomers retire over the next decade," says Mario Kratsch, Director, Skills Initiative at GACC Midwest.

ICATT strives to continuously expand this highly sought-after program, which has already garnered national attention, including coverage in the [Wall Street Journal](#), as a successful model for creating exciting career paths for skilled jobs. Last year, there were three applicants for every open position, and while more companies and apprenticeships have been added, it is expected to be highly competitive again for graduating seniors in 2017.

If you are interested in learning more about GACC Midwest's National Apprenticeship Week activities, visit www.thinkicatt.com or email Melissa Kmetz at kmetz@gaccmidwest.org.



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ABOUT US

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to assist in the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and a professional consultancy.

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