



## Improving Student Outcomes through Employer Involvement: Moraine Park Technical College's Forming Alliances to Cultivate Talent (FACT) initiative

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### Summary

We examined term-to-term retention rates of students in manufacturing and engineering technician and technology (METTE) programs who participated in the FACT Initiative. We found:

- Increased term-to-term retention for students who received a FACT stipend.
- Students valued plant tours/company visits and attending the Manufacturing Expo more than in class presentations.
- Student engagement with employers is best at conveying information about skills & knowledge needed to be successful in the labor force, but has a positive effect on retention when students make connections with employers.

### Student Engagement

Models of student success posit that active participation by students in the learning process through engagement with college faculty and staff, with other students, and with course material can improve student outcomes such as academic achievement, persistence, and completion.

### FACT Initiative

FACT is funded by MPTC area manufacturers to support student engagement through active and collaborative learning in METTE programs. These programs include:

- Associate degree programs in
- Fabrication Technologies
  - Mechanical Design Technology
  - Mechatronics
  - Process Engineering Technology;
- One year diploma programs in
- Welding
  - Metal Fabrication; and
- Two year diploma program in
- CNC/Tool and Die Technologies.

### Sample & Data

Retention data for 274 students enrolled in METTE programs in Fall 2013 and 275 enrolled in Fall 2014 at MPTC were analyzed. In addition, MPTC conducted and analyzed a pilot survey of 33 students at Moraine Park who have participated in FACT.

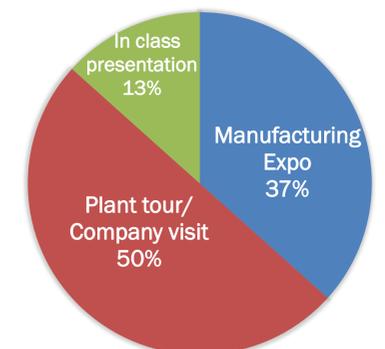
Student Perception of Impacts on Retention	Percent Responding Affirmatively
• Learning about training-related employment opportunities for program graduates	67%
• Learning about skills & knowledge needed to obtain training-related job	64%
• Learning about other skills & knowledge needed to be successful in labor force	58%
• Receiving a FACT stipend	55%

Source: FACT Initiative Evaluation Pilot Survey

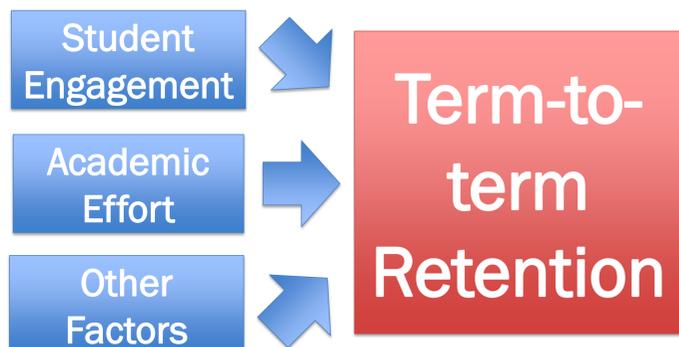
### Implications

FACT could have a greater impact on retention and program completion if instructors help students make more explicit connections between what they are learning in the classroom and insights about the labor market, working conditions, and employment prospects that the employer community can provide.

### Most Valuable FACT Activity



Source: FACT Initiative Evaluation Pilot Survey



### Spring Retention of METTE Students

Spring Enrollment Status	Received FACT Stipend	Did Not Receive FACT Stipend
Retained Spring 2014	97%	73%
Retained Spring 2015	94%	67%

Source: Analysis of MPTC enrollment records for all 2014 & 2015 METTE students