

## **High School Students Learn About Apprenticeship Opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing**

*By Alexandra Hoffmann, GACC*

Driving through the scenic rolling hills of rural Sussex New Jersey, GACC NY representatives Matthew Allen and Alexandra Hoffmann made their way to High Point Regional High School. The school, located amidst vast farmland, is home to two CNC machines and an outstanding curriculum surrounding them.

Students at High Point have a knack for building things. Surrounded by various unique projects, Matthew and Alexandra took part in a team building exercise that explained the process of learning a skill. This technique was an engaging way to enrich the students minds on how “learning by doing” is one of the best ways to learn a skill. The exercise correlated with apprenticeship and how apprentices learn advanced skills through hands-on experience. The concept stimulated conversation of how apprenticeships works and pointed out their main benefits: receiving an education with minimal to no debt while also gaining certifications, an associate degree and full-time employment directly after graduating Apprenticeship.

Alexandra, a High Point alum, recalls sitting in the same desks of the students and wondering where her own career path would take her. “At the time, there wasn’t an opportunity like apprenticeship that could pave the way and allow students to graduate into an affordable education and a fast-tracked career path,” she explained. “There are so many students at High Point that could benefit from Apprenticeship opportunities.” Alex Gonzalez, a technologies teacher at High Point, and Alexandra both are able to relate to the very real stories of student debt that incurs at most 4-year universities.

Principal Jon Tallamy and Supervisor of STEM Brian Drelick were thrilled to bring these opportunities to the students of High Point and the partnership being formed with the GACC NY. They were an essential part in organizing everything and getting in front of the right crowd - those interested in mechanics and building things. The GACC NY was delight to be involved in educating the students on apprenticeship.