



Austin Polytechnical Academy

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Free Computers for Austin Students!

Austin Polytech offers complimentary, refurbished desktop computers to the first 80 rising freshmen to enroll for the 2011-12 school year

Chicago, Ill., July 21, 2011—In partnership with Digital Divide and the Center for Labor & Community Research ([CLCR](#)), Austin Polytechnical Academy ([APA](#)) will award the first 80 rising freshmen to enroll for the 2011-12 school year with a free refurbished desktop computer.

“We believe every student should have access to a working computer at home,” said Erica Swinney, career and community programs director, CLCR. “Technology is an increasingly important part of our society, including the educational process.”

Austin Polytech is a college and career prep high school on Chicago’s West Side focused on manufacturing and engineering. Thanks to partnerships with over 65 local manufacturers, students have access to a variety of work-based learning opportunities including company tours, job shadowing, mentoring, and paid internships.

APA also features the state-of-the-art WaterSaver Faucet Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) facility, where students can train to earn industry-recognized machining certifications from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). NIMS credentials are respected by manufacturers nationwide as evidence of a potential employee’s manufacturing skills.

“Manufacturing jobs are exciting and high-paying,” Swinney said. According to the National Association of Manufacturers ([NAM](#)), the average manufacturing workers earned \$74,447, including pay and benefits, in 2009.

“An entry-level position can open doors to careers in management, engineering, and even ownership,” Swinney added. “These are quality jobs that can truly revitalize the community and build a broad-based middle class in Austin and across the United States.”

Austin Polytech was established in 2007 by the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council ([CMRC](#)), a strategic partnership of business, labor, government, education, and community leaders working to make Chicago the global leader in advanced manufacturing. Managing partner CLCR serves as the fiscal and operational sponsor for both Austin Polytech and the CMRC.



An APA student operates computer numerically controlled (CNC) equipment in the MTC

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