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Teaming Up to Get Workers Ready for Technology of the Future

Shawn Reese is the perfect example of the complicated route that can lie ahead for workers of the future – but also for the opportunities that are emerging.

5 He graduated from a college in Worcester, Mass., with a degree in electronics engineering technology, a field – like so many – that is rapidly evolving. A degree today is unlikely to be enough preparation for the challenges of tomorrow. So what is a student, a university, an industry, to do?

One approach is the one taken by AIM Photonics and a group of community colleges and universities that have banded together over the last five years to develop emerging technologies and train the work forces needed.

10 The partnership is focusing on emerging technologies and industries addressing an increasingly important question: how to prepare workers at all levels – technicians as well as people with doctoral degrees – for new technologies.

15 “Because the jobs don’t exist yet, we need to train students in the skills that are relevant* today so that they can get a job, but at the same time, very selectively, begin to supplement the training relevant to new industries,” said Sajan Saini, an education director at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In his view, the way to accomplish this is by creating “an educational curriculum so that the learning never stops.”

20 Community colleges across the country, with the help of companies and research institutions are beginning to expose students to new theories and technology while teaching core** manufacturing fundamentals, encouraging their students to continue their education even after they have earned their initial degree.

By Ellen Rosen, adapted from www.nytimes.com, September 11th, 2018

* appropriate to the current time, period, or circumstances

** the part of something that is central to its existence