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### **APT TRAINING CENTER COMPLETES 2ND YEAR**

HICKSVILLE—APT Manufacturing Solutions completed its 2nd year of the Manufacturing Training Center. 8 students from Hicksville and Fairview High School, 5 seniors and 3 juniors, completed their requirements at the training center, located in the APT plant and instructed by APT employees.

Throughout the school year, the students spent 2 hours per day at APT facilities, logging hours on various skilled tasks with APT employees as instructors. The students worked "hands-on" in every area of our machining, fabrication, and automation divisions. They completed their capstone project of designing, fabricating, assembling, wiring, and programming a robot packing cell that placed pill bottles into an organized pattern inside a box, using one of the 2 FANUC robots the Training Center supplies exclusively for students.

Out of the 5 seniors, 4 were selected for summer internships in their career fields. Those students in internships are competing for a limited number of full-time employment apprenticeships APT will be offering in the fall. Summer internships typically pay between \$4,000-\$8,500, and the first year apprenticeships offer full time benefits, free college, and pay around \$30,000-\$45,000. The interns not selected for apprenticeships will attend college in the fall and plan to return annually to round out the "hands-on" portion of their resumes.

There are 2 students returning in the 2017-18 school year. 2nd year students select an area of interest from their first year and APT focuses on helping them be "work-ready" by the end of the 2nd year.

6 new students (4 from Hicksville and 2 from Fairview) have earned spots in the program for 2017-18. Those new students were selected from over 100 interested students and earned their place based on academic prowess, teacher recommendation, a written application, and a demanding panel interview with APT team leads and executives from every department in the company.

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APT has grown rapidly in recent years, more than doubling its workforce and building over the last 3 years. Tony Nighswander, President and Owner of APT, says the company is still hiring skilled trades and plans to continue hiring for the foreseeable future, especially tool makers and machinists, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, robot programmers, and PLC programmers.

APT Manufacturing Solutions, founded in 1996, specializes in solving problems for manufacturers. It is among the largest machine shops in the area, as well as welding and fabrication. APT serves leading manufacturers with custom designed and built gauges, along with custom machines, packaging equipment, and full assembly lines. APT is an authorized FANUC robot integrator, the leading robot manufacturer in the world, and serves a wide range of customers in the automotive, food, pharmaceutical, firearms, and aerospace, and furniture industries.

