

Massasoit Diesel Technology students gain hands-on experience and help make miracles happen.

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Craig LaScola, owner of Craig's Big Wave Marine Center in Hyannis had searched everywhere for the piece of equipment that could test his engine for a very special project. Just when he was about to ship the whole thing to Ohio, he had an idea. "I actually called the manufacturer of the Dynamometer and asked them where I could find one, and they referred me to Massasoit," said Craig.

Craig called Professor Tom Kearns and it all fell into place. The engine was delivered, and Massasoit's Engine Principles class got it ready to test. "It is a terrific learning opportunity for our students, and great for the College when the industry comes to us," said Professor Kearns. The Engine Dynamometer instrumentation is contained in its own 'room' in the diesel lab on Massasoit's Canton Campus and is a highly specialized and useful tool for the diesel engine industry. Student Jordan Snowdale explains, "It will measure the horsepower and the torque of the engine. The owner wants to know how fast he can run the engine and how far that speed will sustain." Another student, Domenic Napolitano continues, "They are going to custom build propellers for the boat, this will show at what angle, pitch, and size they should build."

This engine will not be for just any boat. Craig LaScola is custom rebuilding an offshore race boat that will be a 'wish' for the Children's Miracle Network and Children's Hospital Boston. "We will do runs out of the Cape, and the kids will get the whole experience. We are installing dual steering and other equipment which will allow them to help steer and run the boat. We will provide a nice lunch and make it a great day for these kids and their families," said Craig. He expects the boat to be ready by June.

Faculty and students working side-by-side with industry partners provides students a unique learning opportunity as they gain hands-on experience and in this case, became part of something bigger than themselves.

Massasoit Community College's Diesel Program prepares graduates to compete and succeed in the rapidly evolving diesel power field. Technicians are trained on state of the art power systems used in transportation and power generation. Program graduates develop the essential knowledge and skills needed to work in the development, installation and maintenance of advanced power systems within the dynamic fields of diesel technology.

Projects are accepted based on the criteria of meeting specific educational objectives with the owner supplying parts and materials and a modest project fee. For more information contact Professor Kearns @ 781-821-2222 x 2125.

