



FOUNDATION GRANT

October 20, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Tina Bassett, Bassett & Bassett, Inc.

313-965-3010 or TB@BassettBassett.com

**WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE MARGARET
DUNNING FOUNDATION FOR PURCHASE OF NEW ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING PROGRAM EQUIPMENT**

DETROIT, Mich. – Oct. 20, 2023 – Wayne County Community College District received a \$27,000 grant from the Margaret Dunning Foundation to support the purchase of lab equipment that supports the electronics, mechatronics, and auto program for students pursuing careers in auto electrification and robotic automation.

Margaret Dunning was a successful businesswoman and long-time resident of Plymouth, Michigan who had a love of classic cars and philanthropy. Her foundation, established in 1997, supports charitable programs primarily in western Wayne County, Michigan, and educational programs focused on the automobile and transportation industries.

“We are grateful for the support of the Margaret Dunning Foundation and excited to introduce new equipment into these pivotal programs on our campuses,” said Dr. David Beaumont, WCCCD Vice Chancellor, Educational Affairs. “This initiative will help us provide real-world industry exposure to our students and prepare them to participate on day one in a growing and in-demand industry.”

In response to the rapidly evolving automotive industry, especially with the surge in electric vehicles (EVs) and the transition from analog to digital systems, WCCCD is modernizing its Electrical Engineering Labs (EE Labs), taking them from the traditional 12-volt systems to the new industry standard 48-volt systems. The difference underscored the immediate need to prepare students for the higher volt systems, and for comprehensive training in diagnosing, troubleshooting, and understanding the software systems integral to new vehicles.

The revamped Electrical Engineering Labs will serve as a gateway for these students into the electrification of vehicles and automation in robotics in manufacturing. As the industry trends toward vehicle electrification and increased reliance on automated robotics, WCCCD students will be at the forefront, equipped with hands-on experience and knowledge, ready to lead in these transformative sectors.

About Wayne County Community College District

WCCCD, one of the largest urban-suburban community colleges in Michigan, is a multi-campus district with six campus locations and educational centers, including the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center, the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE), the Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center and the Outdoor Careers Training Center. The District serves students across 32 cities and townships, and more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of innovative programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services. www.wcccd.edu.

About the Margaret Dunning Foundation

The Margaret Dunning Foundation was founded by Ms. Dunning in 1997. She was born in 1910 in Redford Township, Michigan, and moved with her mother to Plymouth, Michigan in the 1920s. During her lifetime, Ms. Dunning was a successful businesswoman, philanthropist, and civic booster. She was a major supporter of many Plymouth nonprofits, including the Plymouth District Library and the Plymouth Historical Society. In addition to her personal philanthropy, Ms. Dunning was a classic car enthusiast and was a regular participant in the Woodward Dream Cruise with her 1930 Packard 740 Roadster.

Ms. Dunning died in 2015 at the age of 104. Her estate provided additional funding for the Margaret Dunning Foundation, which continues to support her charitable interests and legacy. For more information: www.margaretdunningfdn.org.