

# Innovative Education... and Mechatronics



Innovation Village @ Rockingham (IV@R) is a magnet for companies in biotechnology, information technology (IT), energy, food processing, and other business sectors that need skilled workers and innovative thinkers.

Phillip Oswald looks forward to solving complex technical problems for a manufacturer. By seeking an associate's degree in Mechatronics at Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC), he is studying a curriculum that combines electronics and engineering and was designed with input from a major manufacturing company.

## PHILLIP OSWALD

Student, Blue Ridge Community College

"After two years of training in manufacturing and engineering technology, I hope to have the knowledge and experience to add value to a manufacturer's bottom line," Oswald explains, "and a successful career path for me."

BRCC is one of several colleges, universities, and technical centers offering degree and certification programs near IV@R where they infuse the workforce with thousands of well-educated and skilled workers every year. Collaborations and startup assistance are available.

- James Madison University offers 69 undergraduate degrees, 31 master's degrees, and 7 doctoral degrees, as well as an interdisciplinary adult degree program.
- Eastern Mennonite University has 35 undergraduate and graduate majors and minors and offers evening classes where students can complete their baccalaureate degree in Management and Organizational Development.
- Bridgewater College offers B.A. and B.S. degrees in 62 majors and minors, including dual degree programs.
- BRCC offers 17 associate degree programs, one diploma program, and 40 career studies certificates.
- National College's classes allow students to brush up on their computer skills or earn degrees in Business Administration, IT, and information systems engineering among others. Classes are offered on campus or provided in the workplace.
- Massanutten Technical Center holds adult education classes in trade and industrial disciplines from AutoCAD to welding and offers apprenticeship programs leading to a nationally-recognized Journeyman certification.

Financial assistance is available for qualifying students and companies.

Innovation Village @ Rockingham is infused with a strong community spirit and "can-do" optimism that helps great ideas move to reality. IV@R is a 365-acre master planned village being developed in three phases, allowing for the establishment of new facilities or campuses customized for each company's specific needs.