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MECSOFT CORPORATION DONATES \$40K FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

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IRVINE, CA— Irvine Valley College is the recipient of a \$40,000 donation from MecSoft Corporation of Irvine. MecSoft provides state-of-the-art Windows-based CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) software for use in the automotive, aerospace and general machining industries. MecSoft has donated 40 lab licenses of *VisualMill 5*, software on which students can train in CAM, CAD (computer-aided design), and CNC (computer numerical control). The software grant will allow students to learn CNC technology in mold-making, tool-and-d

ie making, prototyping, design, and engineering applications, on an advanced program that is used by industry professionals.

Dwight Collins, who heads the Department of Engineering and CAD at IVC, sees a lot of potential for the students who will use the software.

"As a drafting instructor, I see *VisualMill* as an essential complement to our curriculum. This is a powerful software tool that is ideal for design, rapid-prototyping, and general machining. It teaches students how to create and simulate machined products using their computers."

However, the software doesn't do it all. According to Collins, students will still learn model making the old-fashioned way using wood, clay or foam to create 3-D versions of their ideas. Collins believes that holding a model in one's hands is still a great way for budding designers to see what their creations will look like.

With MecSoft's software, students will now be able to flesh out their design ideas quickly in a virtual environment. And, as new design and manufacturing innovations enter the marketplace, the new software will develop in students the skills they will need in the workforce—where time and accuracy are precious commodities.

Joe Anand, president and CEO of MecSoft Corporation, made the contribution in December just as Irvine Valley began its second semester with a Design and Model Making program.

"We at MecSoft are delighted to make this software grant to IVC, an outstanding institution in the heart of Irvine. This is our way of giving something back to our community. The main motivation behind this grant is to help develop a manufacturing related curriculum that fosters manufacturing innovation and excellence. With VisualMill in the classroom, IVC students will learn the latest CAM technologies and practices in the industry today. As IVC's Design/Rapid prototyping program grows, it is our hope that it enables the development of a state of the art manufacturing skill base in the local area. We are looking forward to working with the excellent staff at IVC to make this a reality."

Irvine Valley College is located at 5500 Irvine Center Drive, on the corner of Jeffrey Road and Irvine Center Drive in Irvine. For more information contact Dwight Collins at (949) 451-5316.

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