Zappos.com. earns national award

Left to right: Allen Powell, Director, National Technical Honor Society, presented the Silver Star of Excellence award to Melissa Leary, Recruiting Supervisor, Zappos.com and Craig Adkins, Vice President of Services and Operations, Zappos.com

The annual Silver Star of Excellence, presented by the American Technical Education Association (ATEA) and the National Technical Honor Society is awarded to a company that is supportive of and committed to postsecondary technical education. Zappos.com was the 2010 winner and received the award at the recent national ATEA conference.

Outstanding supporter of SCTD

The company opens their Bullitt County facility to faculty and students, offers tours with opportunities to talk shop with employees, job shadowing and technical presentations. Zappos.com utilizes the technology taught in most of SCTD’s programs, making the company an excellent arena for faculty updating. Faculty have visited and studied the programmable controls that direct floor robots, graphic design operations within the company’s on-line sales and marketing division, the IT infrastructure behind the marketing operation, and more. The company employs SCTD students in cooperative education positions and employs alumni from Computer Network Administration, Mechanical Engineering Technology/Robotics, Dynamic Web Development, Computer Graphic Design, and Computer Network Security/Forensics. Melissa Leary (HR) and Mike Brendenstein (Plant Maintenance) work on the Mechanical Engineering Technology/Robotics Program Advisory Board. Their attendance and insightful suggestions help the program remain vital, state-of-the-art, and as responsive to industry as possible.

In addition to the Silver Star of Excellence from ATEA, Zappos.com will be listed in the National Technical Honor Society’s National Hall of Fame for Educational Excellence.

Listen up!

SCTD faculty honored in Kentucky magazine

Two SCTD instructors were at the head of their class in Kentucky Monthly magazine’s annual Professor Superlative contest. Anyone who knows Craig Niemann, Graphic Design Chair, (above) is always impressed with his energy and contagious enthusiasm. Congratulations, Craig on your selection as Kentucky Monthly’s 2010 Postsecondary Instructor with the Most School Spirit.

Mike Bryant (right) teaches Professional Development and Speech and Interpersonal Communication. Bryant makes his content live, challenges his students and grabs their interest every day. His stentorian voice echoes through SCTD’s halls and with it, he keeps students engaged, even fascinated. Thanks, Kentucky Monthly, for recognizing Mike Bryant as The Most Dramatic college instructor for 2010.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Noah Eltzroth, Dynamic Web Development instructor, completed the Certified Internet Web (CIW) Foundations exam and received his CIW Associate certification in web design. Mitch Mitchell, CADD instructor, earned his Mechanical Drafter certification from the American Design Drafting Association (ADDA).

Ron Chilton, High School Liaison, and Dr. Sheree P. Koppel, Academic Dean, recently participated in a Dale Carnegie course focusing on effective communication skills. Participants were required to present short talks two or three times during a class meeting. Chilton earned several awards for outstanding talks and graduated with his class. Dr. Koppel earned a breakthrough award for one of her talks and graduated with 100% attendance.

Four faculty members recently presented at the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education’s summer program. Craig Niemann and Carla Wallace spoke on using service projects to link students and the world of work. They brought experience and successful work for non-profit organizations to the table. Terri George and Tom Willis presented on linking students and the workplace through meaningful externships. The presentation was a lively one and the topic was timely.