
Comments on De Anza CDI CAD Program Former Student Comments

Valley Engineering Group- Scott Bohlom: My firm, provides mechanical design, drafting, and engineering services as well as technical staffing in the same. My single biggest issue comes from the inability to recruit mechanical engineers and designers who are trained in the correct use of upper end CAD packages such as Pro/E, SolidWorks, Inventor, and Unigraphics. The Silicon Valley is home to thousands of these types of jobs and the need is only increasing. Currently, I have far more open positions than I have qualified people to fill them. Interestingly enough, however, the support I see from our state funded community college system with regards to educating our work force is decreasing rather than increasing. For example, we are an East Bay firm and in the past we have been able to recruit qualified employees from Ohlone College in Fremont. Sadly, Ohlone College shut down their program and we receive no further support. It would be one thing if these were low end, minimum wage jobs. However, these types of jobs provide the income level necessary to support families as well as add to the states and local tax revenue base. If there are any types of programs that should be viciously protected and funded, it's these types of programs. Anyone looking at the big picture can see that these are self funding if not profitable. Recently, my biggest customer told me that they are doing everything they can to send mechanical design and engineering tasks to India. They told me that it was just far too difficult to find qualified people here any more. This is not an anomaly, it is happening throughout the valley. These are smart people in big companies and they'll figure it out. Once they do, you'll see engineering go the way of manufacturing and there won't be a need for these types of programs at all. In terms of engineering resources, De Anza college has been an oasis in the desert and we have hired several of these students. Please do what you can to protect our last public source of training in mechanical CAD. The Silicon Valley is the cradle of engineering in the United States. If we can't protect these programs here, where can we? If you have any questions, or require any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

SoloPoint Engineering, Dean Le: Since my first introduction to the De Anza CAD program in 1995, I have found the program and its dedicated instructors to be an invaluable resource to the community of both engineering professionals and entry level job seekers here in the Bay Area. The availability of low cost and relevant technical CAD training is instrumental in assisting many engineers and designers update their skills and therefore obtain jobs. The De Anza CDI-CAD program is the only one of its kind in the Bay Area - offering consistent, update technical CAD training.

Over the years, I have been able to place, into good jobs, well over a hundred of former De Anza CAD students - all of whom became very attractive to technical employers after they received training at De Anza. Needless to say, without such a valuable program, the technical community would suffer a great loss. Professionals who are laid off and entry level job seekers would be without an effective training option that they can afford.

The CDI-CAD program is a great success due to the diligent hard work of all the instructors, in particular Gary Lamit, Paul Klingman, and Max Gilleland. In addition they have cultivated the support of many industry partners who share my view and fully support them. I urge you to seek every possible avenue to locate a new site for the CDI-CAD program.

I am writing in support of the De Anza College CDI program.

Since I was introduced to Gary Lamit in 1995 through mutual connections at Parametric Technologies Corporation, I have recognized the value that this program brings to the community.

The CDI program provides invaluable CAD training for students and seasoned professionals alike. The key is CDI provides technical CAD training that is very marketable – skills that are critical in Mechanical Engineering jobs. The CDI program allows individuals to continually update their CAD skills and compete for jobs.

In addition, Gary and his team have done a great job in not only providing instruction, but they have built a networking community around the CDI program that enables students of the program to engage with companies and professionals in the CAD design and engineering arena. This has resulted in SoloPoint and many other similar companies to meet and ultimately hire individuals from the CDI program.

I feel strongly that if the CDI program was eliminated a great many people would have no options for CAD training/updating thereby reducing their marketability in the job market. I urge you to do what is necessary to continue to fund the De Anza CDI program.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dean Le
Principal
SoloPoint Solutions, Inc.

I started at De Anza in the CAD program in 1998 after two years of being disabled. With the knowledge and CAD skills I got in Gary Lamit's curriculum I was able to get employment in a semiconductor company with only a CAD certificate in 2000. I graduated with honors in 2005. I have been able to stay employed in silicon valley since then. I have donated to his department and the disabled students department every year through the De Anza Foothill foundation.

Presently I am an employee at Thermofisher Scientific Instruments in San Jose where we make massspectrometers and high pressure liquid chromatography instruments. Even though I only have an AA degree I work with PHD and BS/master degreed engineers. Many of them have taken classes at De Anza and know of Gary's program.

Another thought Humanities math English are all important but engineering tools and technology application classes that have curriculum content and context for employment.

Gary Mahany
650-858-1612

At this time when so many valuable public activities are threatened with elimination for lack of funding, I would like to say a word about a program at DeAnza College that I believe offers crucial value to the community.

That is the CDI faculty that teaches Computer-Aided Design to engineers.

I have worked as a mechanical engineer in Silicon Valley for years, later moving into management. In the downturn that started some years ago I was laid off, as have been so many. As a career move I decided to return to my vocational roots as a mechanical design engineer.

I soon discovered that my skill set was deficient: I had not yet learned to use mechanical CAD, which is now an absolute pre-requisite for employment. Thankfully, the CDI program at DeAnza offers an effective set of courses and instruction, at a reasonable cost (especially for those with reduced incomes...)

I took courses in ProEngineer from beginning to advanced, and learned the requisite skill set.

Now at this time I am gainfully employed, using the CAD skills that DeAnza CDI equipped me with.

Without the DeAnza program, the outcome in my case would undoubtedly have not been as positive, and I am sure the same for many others in similar circumstances.

Among the many programs of study at Foothill-DeAnza, CAD has to be at or near the top in terms of real value to the community.

Andy Carter, Principal Consultant

In 2008 I took your PROE Wildfire 3.0 series of classes. It had been 8 years since I had used PROE and I really needed to update my skills. Your department was and still is the only one of it's kind in the Bay area and I was very thankful that you were there.

While in class, I was made aware of a job opening at BAE Systems. I immediately, on completion of your classes, started working there. It was a very rewarding work experience. We designed vehicles that are used in combat in Iraq. I was really proud to be a part of that team and to be working on equipment to keep our soldiers safe.

It has been a few years and with budget cuts I have found myself looking for work again. I am very relieved that your department is still at De Anza because I know I will be there again this summer. I am finding Solid Works to be the program that most employers are looking for. Since no one wants to provide on the job training, it is a relief to know that there is a place that I can go for training.

Your department will help provide trained professionals that are to employers in California. Your department also stays current with the latest software which is necessary in this environment. You do a great job there.

I am looking forward to attending classes this summer.
See you then.

Marilyn Williams

I am writing in support of the CDI CAD program at DeAnza College. I have been an engineer and manager in new product development in the semiconductor industry for 15 years. As a manager, I first became aware of DeAnza's program, maybe 10 years ago, as I noticed that most of the qualified applicants for drafting and designer jobs had either learned CAD at DeAnza or supplemented their experience there, learning new CAD programs or upgrading skills in ones they already worked with.

In the recent downturn, I was one of the many who found themselves out of work. Despite many years and successful products, and despite a master's degree and post-master's work at Stanford, I found that the people who were hiring wanted "hands-on" managers, who could pick up the slack by doing cad work. I wasn't qualified for those jobs because I hadn't used cad since AutoCad13, and was unfamiliar with the newer packages & 3D modeling. I took an introductory SolidWorks class at DeAnza last spring, and while I won't claim that the class alone got me the job (it didn't, I have a lot of other skills and experience), it was certainly a factor in my favor.

I don't know if it is ironic or not, but in my current capacity as Director of New Product Development at a start-up, I now find myself using SolidWorks very regularly, pitching in where it is needed, and even doing some because of my own interest in a design possibility. I have actually signed up for another SolidWorks class this semester because I use it so much that more knowledge would be hugely beneficial. I encourage you to support and maintain the CAD program, I have seen, from both sides of the interviewing table, how beneficial this program is to individuals and to industry.

Kelly McDonough

1) I am 37 years old, East Indian male and I have an AA degree in Engineering & Math with Physics Emphasis from a California Community College. I work as a Senior Mechanical Designer in the Solar Industry.

2) I have taken the following classes at De Anza College. CDI 60E, CDI70D, CDI 71D, CDI73D, CDI74D & CDI 51.

3) The CAD classes at De Anza College gave me the necessary skills to qualify for a 2 Year Contract at BAE Systems in 2007.

4) I am working on getting my AS degree in Computer Aided Design and If the CAD department is eliminated then I will not be able to finish my degree and get the training I need to upgrade my skills. I will not be able to apply for open positions which require a two year CAD degree and thus decreasing my chances of getting a job in the future.

Arron Bhatia

I wrote this in an airport while sleep deprived, but hopefully it makes sense. I'm sorry to hear that the CDI program is going through even tougher times. I hope these emails help convince De Anza to keep it. Thanks again for all your help in the class.

I took two quarters of both Solidworks and Pro/E each at the De Anza CDI department in 2009 and found the classes invaluable to my development as engineer

First, the CDI lab itself is fantastic. It is filled with powerful and current computers each loaded with nearly every CAD software package imaginable and also training material for those CAD programs. With enough dedicated, one could learn pretty much everything there is to know about these packages. This is pretty much unheard of elsewhere. The instructors are great as well, giving a lot of advice and practical tips. They have taught me much more about proper CAD design technique (proper dimensioning methods, modeling for design intent, etc) than anyone at UC Davis where I got my BS/MS right before. At UCD, proper design philosophy was not taught to me—a painful fact I didn't know until I started the CDI program and saw the difference.

I got a job after my second quarter and used the skills I learned at the CDI department to hop in and design some complex assemblies in Solidworks. My design approach was also approved by senior-level engineers, so I knew I learned something worthwhile at De Anza.

In sum, the CDI department is a fantastic resource to learn current design techniques using the latest software tools. I remember it fondly. Eliminating this program would be a huge loss to Silicon Valley. It will remove the ability for people to study these ultra-expensive CAD packages in an approachable and affordable way.

I want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation and support for the CDI program at De Anza College. Frankly, without it I would not be employed as I am today.

I graduated from San Jose State University in 1991 with a degree in General Design. The success of my 20+ year career was based on my education and skills of mechanical design and CAD. I was exceptionally good with CAD and it opened many opportunities for me in the 1990's in the semiconductor equipment design industry.

Over the course of my career, I rose to management positions, took sales and marketing roles, and basically moved away from my core competence. This came back to bite me in August of 2008 when I was laid off as a Sales Engineer from a large automation supplier at the beginning of the "Great Recession".

After 6 months, of very difficult times financially and quite honestly-emotionally, I found the CDI program at De Anza and started to take the Solidworks classes. The idea was to refresh my skills with the current software package commonly used today.

I landed my first 1099 contract position as I was finishing the Intermediate class. It was with the company that laid me off, not as a Sales Engineer but as a Systems Engineer with their Integration Dept.

It is hard to explain the significance of that, since I was only being paid slightly more than unemployment and less than 1/3 my original salary when I was an employee with benefits, 401k, etc. I honestly could have easily not worked and continued on unemployment since over the course of the year my lifestyle shrunk to a minimum level of cost-but I would say I certainly wasn't living.

The biggest impact of that job was on my self-esteem. Being re-hired by the same company that let me go said it wasn't me, it was really the economy....which was big.

Jumping ahead to April 2011, I have taken all 4 Solidworks classes, CNC G code, MasterCAM, and am now enrolled in the MCNC Materials and Processes and CDI GD&T night classes with A's in every class to date.

I am still working as a 1099 contractor but, since I purchased Solidworks in 2010, I am contract by my choice as I now have 3 clients. My rate is as high as \$65 per hour and I have more work than I can handle.

Clearly my success is founded in my prior 20 years of machine design experience, but without De Anza and your CDI program, I would not be where I am today. Thank you.

Best Regards,

John Martin, Student ID 11328579

I want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation and support for the CDI program at De Anza College. Frankly, without it I would not be employed as I am today.

I graduated from San Jose State University in 1991 with a degree in General Design. The success of my 20+ year career was based on my education and skills of mechanical design and CAD. I was exceptionally good with CAD and it opened many opportunities for me in the 1990's in the semiconductor equipment design industry.

Over the course of my career, I rose to management positions, took sales and marketing roles, and basically moved away from my core competence. This came back to bite me in August of 2008 when I was laid off as a Sales Engineer from a large automation supplier at the beginning of the "Great Recession".

After 6 months, of very difficult times financially and quite honestly-emotionally, I found the CDI program at De Anza and started to take the Solidworks classes. The idea was to refresh my skills with the current software package commonly used today.

I landed my first 1099 contract position as I was finishing the Intermediate class. It was with the company that laid me

off, not as a Sales Engineer but as a Systems Engineer with their Integration Dept.

It is hard to explain the significance of that, since I was only being paid slightly more than unemployment and less than 1/3 my original salary when I was an employee with benefits, 401k, etc. I honestly could have easily not worked and continued on unemployment since over the course of the year my lifestyle shrunk to a minimum level of cost-but I would say I certainly wasn't living.

The biggest impact of that job was on my self-esteem. Being re-hired by the same company that let me go said it wasn't me, it was really the economy....which was big.

Jumping ahead to April 2011, I have taken all 4 Solidworks classes, CNC G code, MasterCAM, and am now enrolled in the MCNC Materials and Processes and CDI GD&T night classes with A's in every class to date.

I am still working as a 1099 contractor but, since I purchased Solidworks in 2010, I am contract by my choice as I now have 3 clients. My rate is as high as \$65 per hour and I have more work than I can handle.

Clearly my success is founded in my prior 20 years of machine design experience, but without De Anza and your CDI program, I would not be where I am today. Thank you.

Best Regards,

John Martin, Student ID 11328579

I want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation and support for the CDI program at De Anza College. Frankly, without it I would not be employed as I am today.

I graduated from San Jose State University in 1991 with a degree in General Design. The success of my 20+ year career was based on my education and skills of mechanical design and CAD. I was exceptionally good with CAD and it opened many opportunities for me in the 1990's in the semiconductor equipment design industry.

Over the course of my career, I rose to management positions, took sales and marketing roles, and basically moved away from my core competence. This came back to bite me in August of 2008 when I was laid off as a Sales Engineer from a large automation supplier at the beginning of the "Great Recession".

After 6 months, of very difficult times financially and quite honestly-emotionally, I found the CDI program at De Anza and started to take the Solidworks classes. The idea was to refresh my skills with the current software package commonly used today.

I landed my first 1099 contract position as I was finishing the Intermediate class. It was with the company that laid me off, not as a Sales Engineer but as a Systems Engineer with their Integration Dept.

It is hard to explain the significance of that, since I was only being paid slightly more than unemployment and less than 1/3 my original salary when I was an employee with benefits, 401k, etc. I honestly could have easily not worked and continued on unemployment since over the course of the year my lifestyle shrunk to a minimum level of cost-but I would say I certainly wasn't living.

The biggest impact of that job was on my self-esteem. Being re-hired by the same company that let me go said it wasn't me, it was really the economy....which was big.

Jumping ahead to April 2011, I have taken all 4 Solidworks classes, CNC G code, MasterCAM, and am now enrolled in the MCNC Materials and Processes and CDI GD&T night classes with A's in every class to date.

I am still working as a 1099 contractor but, since I purchased Solidworks in 2010, I am contract by my choice as I now have 3 clients. My rate is as high as \$65 per hour and I have more work than I can handle.

Clearly my success is founded in my prior 20 years of machine design experience, but without De Anza and your CDI program, I would not be where I am today. Thank you.

Best Regards,

John Martin, Student ID 11328579

I am a Mechanical Engineer with 2 engineering degrees and have benefited from taking CAD training classes at DeAnza College of Cupertino, California. I have taken Computervision in the early 1990s, and AutoCAD in the 1990s, and Pro Engineer in the past 15 years at DeAnza and this has resulted in getting job offers in industry with these job skills. These are low cost CAD classes available at DeAnza to help people to get into or upgrade their skills in the engineering industry. I have worked locally at FMC Corporation with Computervision doing defense industry work and have worked at a much smaller company called Modutek Corporation using AutoCAD designing acid and rinsing tanks used in the semiconductor industry. If these classes were cut from local community colleges like DeAnza, it would reduce the ability of people like myself to upgrade my CAD skills at an affordable cost to make myself more employable again.

Joseph Gillick

After 30 years at Lockheed-Sunnyvale, CA, I retired. I have been working at Boeing, SN Corp., BAE & other Aerospace Companies for the last 12 years as a (Contractor) Drafter, Wiring Harness Design Engineer, or Electrical Engineer as the need arises.

I took CADAM classes at Lockheed in 1980, then SDRC-Ideas Solid Modeling in 1990. I was the Assistant Instructor for Autocad 9 at Foothill College, then I used Autocad 11, 12, 13, 14, 2000, 2004, 2008 & 2010 in the Industry.

I am presently unemployed and living in Denver, Colorado. The Aerospace Companies have now graduated to CATIA V4 & V5, and want a person with 2 years' experience. I have taken the CATIA V5 Class at a College, but have only used it a short time. I am hoping that I will be able to move into a job using CATIA V5, but the chances are slim. Autocad Software seems to be the product of choice for the smaller companies.

If we want to stay employed, we must keep up to date with the CAD Products, and

Mr. Gary Lamit has the most authoritative books and training in this field. I wish I lived in California and could get further instruction on CATIA & other software.

Boeing and Lockheed are now hiring Engineers who have had instruction - like I have heard them say, they want someone "who can hit the ground running!"...Competition in this field depends on a person's knowledge, not of one, but several CAD programs. I have been in this field since 1980, but find I am slipping behind others who have taken classes in the latest CAD software. This is REAL...

We need more colleges with MORE CAD, not less if we want to keep people working.

Sincerest,
Barbara Lee West

My Background and Education:

My first exposure to CAD (Computer Aided Design) was about 1976 at BYU (Brigham Young University) in Provo, Utah. This was when CAD was in its infancy. 1976 CAD was software and hardware every primitive in 1976. The 1976 CAD processors were very large, expensive, hot, slow and broken down frequently. Back in 1976 CAD was very risky with great uncertainty and was diagnosed as being unpredictable, unreliable, and possibly a bad investment. But, as with all new technology, the beginning of CAD technology had to start some way with research, development and testing, thus resulting in trial and error scenarios. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Design Engineering Technology and a Master of Technology Management degree from BYU.

My Employment:

I've been exposed to CAD applications for 35 years in both the Aerospace and Automotive industries. I've experienced CAD evolution for my decades and the technological advancement of CAD over 35 years has been incredible to me and unbelievable to others less familiar with CAD. But anyone who is remotely familiar with CAD and its applications will unconditionally praise CAD as having been one of the most significant contributors to the advancement of technology. As an employee of Lockheed Martin, I would probably "cease to exist" if CAD were to be eliminated. Any high tech company would probably cease to exist if CAD was eliminated. All high tech companies would begin the experience significant hardships and even shut downs due to economic problems and financial losses, and no longer being competitive, and for many more reasons far beyond enough time and words to explain.

CAD, as with any technology, has significantly improved over many decades and has evolved into or has become a very powerful and productive asset. This valuable tool (CAD) has evolved into a very beneficial instrument that has exponentially magnified designer capabilities and has advanced designing techniques far beyond the ancient traditional two dimensional drafting by pioneering three dimensional modeling initially with wire framing then later with solids modeling as computer hardware and software became more robust. In today's world, it's very evident and obvious that our current modern everyday technology applications in everything we do has some major or even remotely minor connection to or relationship with the usage of some form of CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Manufacturing). Statistics currently reveals over 9 million CAD users exist in 183 countries. Wow!!! That's impressive. The future security of CAD appears to be in good hands and should be around for a long time far into the future for many generations to come.

CAD is an important industrial art extensively used in many applications, including automotive, shipbuilding, and aerospace industries, industrial and architectural design, prosthetics and many more. CAD is also widely used to produce computer animation for special effects in movies, advertising and technical manuals. The modern ubiquity and power of computers means that even perfume bottles and shampoo dispensers are designed using techniques unheard of by engineers of the 1960s. Because of its enormous economic importance, CAD has been a major driving force for research in computational geometry, computer graphics (both hardware and software), and discrete differential geometry. Practically every product in existence today, regardless of what it is now or what it was 30+ years ago was probably if not most likely designed and manufactured via CAD/CAM support applications. CAD/CAM applications results in significant time and cost savings primarily due to speed and accuracy.

Bottom-line is, the future of our technology world will not survive without the existence of CAD. In order to meet the future demands of advanced and economic technology, we must have and make significant usage of CAD applications. CAD will undoubtedly be the sole source to carry the future advancement of technology and products for many forthcoming generations. In order to experience and achieve any future cutting edge of technology, we must have CAD or we will not survive the cutting edge of technology without the continued existence of CAD. As for me, I want to continue to always be on the cutting edge of technology now and into the future. I will make this happen by continuing long into the future with my CAD applications.

Paul Dinsmoor

am a Mechanical Engineer with 4 years of experience. I've taken many courses at De Anza college like PRO/e Basic, Intermediate, Sheetmetal and Solidworks courses like Surfaces, Simulation.

I came to US about 5 years back and I started taking courses here about 1 year later. These courses gave me the confidence to enter the job market and I got my first job through the job postings sent by Gary and his team. This program helps many freshers and starters like me and also helps experienced Professional to enhance their knowledge.

It will be a great loss to all professionals if this program is taken out. So, Please continue this program.

Anjana

It is very sad to know that the government plan to do some cuts of the CAD program in DeAnza College.

From my stand point DeAnza college CAD classes helped me be where I am now.

By Learning Pro-Engineer I was able to have a job in Intel and Cisco. Later on I took NX classes and with that knowledge helped me to find a job in Apple where I now a days.

Without having taken those classes at DeAnza, it would have been impossible to get a job in such prestigious Companies.

At this moment my wife is taking Pro-E and she is feeling very enthusiastic about it. Soon she would be able to follow my steps.

Gary: Thanks to you also for all your teachings.

Tony Vargas.

I have been a student at De Anza since Summer of 2010. I do not have any college degrees, however I have a few units from two other schools in San Francisco. I am unemployed and looking to learn a valuable skill set to help me find employment. I have passed Basic SolidWorks (Winter quarter, 2011) and I am currently enrolled in Intermediate SolidWorks. I plan to continue with this route and become proficient with SolidWorks, and then possibly continuing on to learn CATIA. Knowledge of various CAD software is very vital in this area for engineers and designers seeking employment. Taking away this program at De Anza would have a huge negative impact on many people, seeking to improve their work skills. Without De Anza's CAD program, individuals would be forced to take very expensive -- and often poor-quality -- "crash" courses, offered by private companies. Without De Anza's CAD program, I would definitely not be able to continue learning this software, and I would be forced to completely shift my educational goals. The elimination of this program would also negatively impact current working professionals who are seeking to keep their CAD software knowledge up to date, as this is an ever-changing and competitive field.

I am a mechanical engineer for the last 15 years working with the Aerospace and Defense industries (Space System/Loral and BAE Systems). I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mechanics Engineering from University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from San Jose State University (SJSU).

- What classes have you taken (and when) at De Anza in the CAD department:

I took CDI D056Y (Special Projects in CAD) to refresh my Pro/Mechanica finite element analysis (FEA) software skill in Fall 2010 quarter. I also took CDI D060E (SolidWorks, beginning) and CDI D073D (Pro/Sheetmetal) in Winter 2011 quarter. I am attending CDI D061E (SolidWorks, intermediate) and CDI 51 (Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerances) in this Spring quarter.

I want to take more finite element (Cosmos for SolidWorks) and finite difference (CFD) classes, but De Anza does not offer.

- How have you benefited from having the CAD program available locally:

I am between jobs, so I hope those above classes will help me to get a mechanical engineering job. I cannot afford to travel to take those classes. Therefore, it is very convenient and affordable to taking those classes at De Anza.

- How would it affect your life, job, employment, etc., if the CAD department was eliminated:

If the CAD department was eliminated, I would not be able to update my skills in my mechanical engineering software since software is constantly updated the version. For example, I know Pro/Engineer Wildfire 4.0 at work, but I don't have job for more than one year. Pro/Engineer is updated to Wildfire 5.0 version now, so I took the Pro/Sheetmetal Wildfire 5.0 last Spring 2011 quarter to show my updated Pro/Engineer (Wildfire 5.0) skill on my resume.

I am writing this letter to indicate my support to keeping the De Anza College CDI program intact. I am a mechanical designer with over 25 years of experience in the Defense, Automotive and Aerospace field. I am currently employed as a senior level designer with a major defense contractor. Due to market conditions in the defense industry I feel the need to prepare myself for seeking employment due to ongoing reductions in force at my present employer.

I chose to return to De Anza starting with the winter 2011 quarter (CDI095-CATIA) and am currently enrolled in the spring 2011 quarter (CDI061-Solidworks). As a mechanical designer it is very important become proficient with the use of CAD systems that are currently in demand by employers in the area. I have found the offerings in the CDI department to be the most current and well taught in the area. The staff keeps abreast of what systems employers are using and tailor the course offerings accordingly. As a working student I find the on-line offerings to be the best fit into my schedule and with the responsive instructors I have any questions answered in a timely manner. If the CDI program were to be severely impacted I feel that it would put me and many others at a disadvantage in this competitive job market. In my present employment I have met many designers and engineers that have gotten their CAD training through the De Anza CDI program and have been impressed with the proficiency shown by these individuals.

Randall Finch

My name is Donald Parkison. I have a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering and I am currently working in the aerospace industry at Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, CA. The Sunnyvale campus primary works with IDEAS CAD software. A new program was opening up and has decided to go with Pro/E CAD software. With the down turn in the economy the training budget at Lockheed has disappeared. So I took Pro/E beginning (CDI 070D) in the summer of 2010. Having the skills required to go to the new program I was easily picked up for the new position. I am now taking Pro/E intermediate (CDI 071D) and GD&T (CDI 51) to continue my career path at the company. Having these courses near me has been a great asset in helping me understand the material and seeking help from the staff. Without the availability of these programs I would not have been able to further my career path and stay gainfully employed. I look forward to taking more classes from De Anza's CAD program.

Please use my letter to support the program:

In the fall of 2008 I had just bought my first house and was on my way to becoming a civil engineer and project manager in Bay Area residential and commercial construction projects. I was laid off in January of 2009 from a local civil engineering company during the crash. After I was let go I immediately looked around for a way to further my education while looking for a new job and discovered CDI program at De Anza College. I started taking classes in Solidworks and eventually continued on to courses in Pro Engineer, Inventor, AutoCAD, and

Revit. Two years later I am on the verge of earning an Associate of Science in Computer Drafting and while this is an achievement for me, the value of the program goes far beyond just the classes that I took and the degree I will earn.

De Anza College also runs an internship program that connects to local industry and NASA's Ames Research Center, something that I discovered through the CDI program. I applied to the internship program in November of 2009 at NASA and won the position. Over the next year I continued taking classes at De Anza while working at Ames and the work paid off – I became a full time Civil Servant at NASA in January of 2011.

The CDI program provided me with more than just an understanding of up to date computer drafting technology, it provided me with industry contacts and a way to stay connected while I was not working. Physically being in the CAD labs allowed me to talk with other industry professionals about local companies and trends, and gave me access to De Anza's excellent faculty, all of whom have years of professional experience.

Without the CDI program I would not have been able to launch my new career at NASA. Without the hard work and invaluable support of the staff at the CAD labs my life would not be the same.

David Marshall

My name is Steve Norwood and I've been driving Pro E since Jan 2002. I started on version 2001 and I'm current through WF5. I've traveled the country working defense programs and Gary Lamit and DE Anza College are known throughout the country. It's not uncommon to go into an engineering room anywhere in this country and find a Pro E manual that Gary has written as a student that he has trained. De Anza College and Gary Lamit have a reputation for offering the BEST PRO E PROGRAM WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Steve Norwood

As a working engineer I took the Pro-E class with Gary many years ago. The drafting class I think is still essential to part of engineering curriculum as we have already eliminated the pencil and paper drafting courses. This course empowers individual to finding better work, because more drafting/engineering jobs out there requires using Pro-E.

To me, because J.C. charges so little so I can pay myself and get trained quickly. Now, I use Pro-E for design work. However, I'm switching to Solidworks. If J.C. stops training people then more company will need to train their people with higher cost elsewhere.

And that hurts small engineering firms the most. The poor gets poorer. Please try to maintain the program. Hope that Silicon Valley big Companies sending their people your way for training and pay premium in supporting of the program. Thank you.

I am Mechanical Engineer from former USSR with 40 years of experience.

I came to USA almost 20 years ago.

When I moved to Silicon Valley in 1995 I found out about CAD program in De Anza College.

I enrolled in many classes and it improved my performance at work.

This program is great, as it gives to many professionals skills so needed today.

This program always was on the top of new improvements in CAD.

I very thankful to college, that it has program like that.

Eliminating or cutting this program, in time when all professionals needed time by time upgrade their skills, will make huge damage to us and to Silicon Valley businesses.

Alex Nisenbaum

I wish to address the possibility of the CDI CAD program being reduced or even cut altogether due to state cutbacks. I am a Mechanical Design Professional (designer) with over 15 years of experience in various modes of design. I had the unfortunate experience of being laid off the end of October 2008 and due to the economy was unable to secure employment for two and a half years. Last fall (2010) I decided to be more proactive and take some classes to refresh my skills as well as learn some new ones.

My main platform for design has been SolidWorks so I completed some refresher classes in SolidWorks: D060E-beginning, D061E-intermediate, and D062E-advanced. I also started learning ProEngineer and have taken: D707D-ProE beginning and D071D intermediate and I am currently enrolled in D074-ProE Pro Surface. I am also currently enrolled in: D080D AutoCAD beginning (to relearn after not using it for over 10 years) and D051 Geometric Dimension and Tolerance.

As I mentioned I have been out of work for two and a half years. It was as a direct result of the classes I have taken as well as a referral I received from the department that made possible my securing full time employment that I started March 29th. This is a story I have heard more times than I can count by sharing experiences with other students and former students of the De Anza CDI CAD program.

In a time of high unemployment, cutbacks and financial difficulties that the bay area, the State of California and the country continue to face I feel if you cut back or eliminate a program that trains people for rewarding careers, that are starting to come back into the mainstream workforce would be criminal. I am not going to bash other departments as they also have their own uses and benefits, but a person with some engineering background and training will find employment easier. That employment as well will pay a living wage as opposed to someone with a BA in for example 'Fine Arts' where

they might be lucky to find a position that will utilize their education, but most likely they will end up flipping burgers or working in retail at minimum wage of slightly above minimum wage. The CDI CAD program at De Anza College needs to be safeguarded or even increased. Without it I would not be employed and finally able to once again support my family.

Frederick L Schlag

Background

I grew up in San Jose and attended Leigh High School. I went to UCLA and obtained my Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering. While studying at UCLA, I thoroughly enjoyed my design classes that involved using CAD programs, purchasing material, and building a product. I am currently planning on attending graduate school (Fall '11) at one of the UCs next year and in the meantime wanted to further advance my knowledge of the Pro/E CAD program, which I was not able to learn or use at UCLA. Fortunately, De Anza's top-notch computer lab and Pro/E classes have allowed me to quickly and effectively learn the basics of the program. I am continuing to take the Intermediate and Advanced Pro/E classes this Spring '11 quarter to further improve my CAD skills.

Education:

Leigh High School, San Jose, CA
B.S. Mechanical Engineering, UCLA

Employment:

No current industry employment, but will begin looking during graduate school

De Anza CAD Classes Taken:

Winter '11: CDI 70D (Completed)
Spring '11: CDI 71D & CDI 72D (In progress)

Benefits of the CAD Program:

The CAD program at De Anza, specifically the Pro/E classes offered, has allowed me to further develop my understanding and knowledge of design using a CAD program. There are many companies who hire drafters or designers that use different CAD programs (i.e. Pro/E, SolidWorks, Autodesk Inventor, etc.), and having an understanding of the different programs and how to use them will make you not only more marketable but a better drafter/designer when you are hired. If these CAD classes were not offered at De Anza, and with such great teachers and a modern computer lab, I personally would not have been able to develop these additional design skills. I'm not aware of any other school locally that offers these classes. Thus, not taking this class would make me less marketable, less knowledgeable about design and less effective at my job, and I would have been pretty bored the year I took off in between undergraduate and graduate school. Not to mention, I get to keep my mind active and am better prepared for my graduate studies in the fall. All in all, this class has allowed me to continue learning during a year of my life I would have otherwise found a short-term job to make a little bit of money, which would have been nothing substantial long term.

Testimonial for CAD program at De Anza College in Cupertino:

I am a UCSC alumni and I work in the engineering field. I have taken the basic AutoCAD course. I hope to take more CAD courses, and I'm especially interested in the Solid works courses. My professional career has reaped the benefits of my CAD training. The CAD courses at De Anza are so beneficial for professional development and teach skills that are necessary and used everyday in many engineering jobs. It would be a great disservice to the community and the local industry if any cuts were made to the CAD program.

I am sorry to hear that DeAnza's CDI CAD program, like I imagine so many other helpful and pertinent public education programs, is in danger of being cut. I can say that CAD education at DeAnza has had a positive influence for my family because it has helped my father and I keep our jobs.

My father has been a drafter for the better part of the last thirty years, and I've taken up the same job for the last ten. We work at the same company, and have done nearly all our work with AutoCAD. We do all different kinds of drafting and documentation work.

Two years ago our company began making a push to switch CAD software to Pro-E. My father was able to learn Pro-E during night classes at DeAnza, he took your first level Pro-E class that summer, while practicing what he learned on the job during the day. I had some experience with Pro-E during my college days, but was woefully out of date. I was able to use my dad's class materials, and a copy of your book, to catch up. Having locally available, very good, affordable classes allowed us to keep working and stay competitive.

There are still many things I wish to learn about the latest CAD software, and I am planning to take advanced CAD classes at DeAnza in the future. I hope that the classes and program are still there. I know it would be more difficult to acquire the education I need otherwise.

I'm writing this statement to express the need to have CAD program in De Anza College. I background is mechanical engineering technology from Cal State Sacramento. I am currently employed with a semiconductor company in Santa Clara. To get to where I am today, I have to thank the CAD program in De Anza College when I first took Pro/Engineering classes back in 1998. Since then, I often take these CAD classes off and on as needed to enhance my skills as Sr. mechanical designer. The CAD programs have given me much leverage to demand the pay and the benefit that the employer need to pay me. In the CAD industry, people in my position has to always continue to education our self in order to shine and trusted by the people we work for. Therefore, the CAD program in De Anza College is the only place that I can afford to enhance my skill to get a better pay.

Thank you so much for keeping the CAD programs in De Anza College going.

-Casey

I was a student at Foothill College for computer science major and eventually changed to CAD major at De Anza College and took most of the classes at CAD under Gary Lamit's guidance and graduated in this program.

My work had evolved from being a Technician to Associate Engineer because I can do much things at work including Solidworks which is the software we demand to use and am still employed for the past 30 years.

My company has been hiring some students from CalPoly whose majors are CAD/Solidworks which is the reason these students are employed here at CPI.

It is my belief that this program plays key part in my advancement and being employed this long, if you cut this program down at DeAnza College, You risk the loss of recognition of having highest employment of your graduates in your CAD department. To be recognized in the industrial business and in silicon valley, you should be expanding this program.

To add , I am 100% deaf and am aware that many deaf people in my community is unemployed and not able to work because they do not go to school. I am fortunate that DeAnza College had allowed me to complete this program and graduate.

Moreover, CPI has been strong on updating the Solidworks version to most recent because they are in high demand of new changes and features afforded us to do our job.

Please explore/browse our website to see what we do in everyday business. www.cpii.com

Thank You,
Ralph Singleton
Associate Engineer
Communication and Power Industries
811 Hansen Way Bldg 2
Palo Alto, California 94304
Ralph.singleton@cpii.com

I attended DeAnza college and graduated Magna Cum Laude with an Associate's Degree in Manufacturing Design about 20 years ago. I was lucky to have found a school here in the Bay Area that offers all of the state-of-the-art CAD programs that cannot be found in any other one school. The technology department at DeAnza provided me with the education and experience I needed to further my career. Without them, I have no doubt that I would not be where I am today. To cut this program would take opportunities away from those gifted with technical minds.

The need for mechanical designers and engineers here in the Bay Area is greater than ever. I've worked in this field for over 20 years now and do not foresee this profession going overseas or being replaced by computers. In a world where affordable educational opportunities are the victims of budget cuts across the states, I think those that have the authority to make decisions for our students and future leaders need to put them first and force the state to make smarter decisions.

Ingrid Hill
Mechanical Engineer

Our state budget crisis requires community colleges to significantly reduce budgets. Cuts, however, to De Anza's Computer Aided Design and Digital Imaging (CDI) programs will incur far greater damage than any short sighted savings. As a CDI certificate holder, I attribute CDI for enabling me to maintain employment. CDI furnishes hope to students, like me, who are un- and underemployed while supporting our local economy with a skilled labor force. When De Anza College makes cuts, please protect the CDI program because CDI helps students stay/get employed and benefits our local economy.

Some might argue that local industries should train their own employees. This is not going to happen in an economy where all too many companies already outsource their workforce to save labor costs. Local companies who hire CDI students are already burdened by higher labor costs than competitors who outsource employees. It is economically unfeasible for employers to train already expensive employees when overseas workers are available at a fraction of the cost. While earning my CDI SolidWorks certificate in 2009/10 I discovered that the majority to students in CDI were similar to me. CDI students tend to be un- or under-employed older persons who are struggling to support their families. Constantly changing technologies means experienced employees must continually update antiquated skills to compete for local employment. CDI provides those with limited resources, access to software, hardware, and training required to sustain companies in our area. The skills I gained from CDI enable me to remain in the workforce.

CDI provides the local skilled workforce that is necessary for our economy to recover. The "2010 Index of Silicon Valley" reported that 60 percent of this area's scientists and engineers are foreign-born. CDI qualifies residents for many of these high-paid high-skilled jobs. "Saving" money by reducing technology and skill development incurs the costly loss of an established pathway to tomorrow's jobs.

Thank you for all you do to make De Anza a community college that benefits many.

Colette Marie McLaughlin
Employed CDI Certificate Holder

Your CAD training programs have helped me make important steps in my career.

When I began in the late 80's I was at a company (FMC) the was slow to adapt CAD design and drafting. With the help of your programs, I was able to acquire the needed training (in ComputerVision) and present myself as a trained asset. I moved directly into the pool of CAD drafters. I was then able to move on to projects that depended on a CAD trained work force. When the company upgraded to another CAD system (Pro-E), I returned to De Anza to get more in depth training than the company was offering. The trainers can be an important link to available jobs in the local industries.

I am now seeking jobs that require Solid Works. I depend on De Anza for the training I will need to continue my career. Please consider the important service this program provides to the local work force and industries that use CAD to keep our economy active and our tax base strong.

My name is Joseph Janicki, a 12 year CAD professional working in the defense industry.

I am also a student at De Anza Community College. To keep up my skills and proficiency in utilizing CAD, I enrolled at De Anza to take advantage of the classes offered in the field of computer design.

I am very happy to find that De Anza offered CAD training. Because my employer uses Pro/Engineer, I needed to take these classes. This will allow me to advance in my job. I would like to see more of these classes offered so that I may continue to increase my knowledge and skill level in this field.

I hold Two degrees, Bachelor in Industrial Technology and Associate in Die design.

I work in military defense. I have attended for the last 6 terms, starting in the winter term 2010 and am attending in this current spring term 2011.

I have benefited greatly because of the CAD program being available locally.

If the CAD department was not available my future prospects working in the valley would be greatly diminished.

Please continue to provide the CAD programs at De Anza. The local industries need these kinds of programs to keep jobs in the area and to provide for future economic growth.

Joseph Janicki

Designer - Unigraphics NX, Pro/Engineer, Catia

I am writing in support of the CDI CAD program at DeAnza. Simply put it is the only decent program of its kind in most of the south bay. Many of the jobs available will require the kind of CAD CAM knowledge only made available in this program. You certainly cannot get this kind of training at any university- only at DeAnza.

I am retooling my life going from director of engineering at several hi tech companies in my 40 year career in Silicon Valley to someone who gets back to actually physically producing something- be it designs, or code or both. This De Anza program supports the actual re-engineering of our working environment unlike the theoretical schools like Stanford UCS etc. They in fact partner well with such theoretical programs to produce a complete engineering design environment.

Most companies are hurting right now and to have a resource come into the company able to take on advanced cad cam is a boon to their productivity. Training them to actually do that is not something that they are likely to take on themselves in this economy.

I have a BSEE and a M.ENG degree from McGill which is equivalent to a Doc Sci degree from the states. I have also gotten a hands on certificate from DeAnza and plan to go back for more.

Richard Karasik

I was unable to use Catalyst for e-mail, possibly because I use Google Chrome as my browser so here we go.

Since the time man started to walk upright and sketch on cave walls, this is how supporting equipment for day-to-day life started. Someone had a better idea on club design and possibly used sand as the drawing media. We'd still be walking with sandals and riding donkeys if there was no media to convey and develop new ideas and products into society. Stop and look around you, everything including that jelly donut and cup holding your coffee was designed most likely with CAD software by someone who learned it in school.

CAD software- skill that over 9 million designers, engineers and digital artists are using at 100 percent of Fortune 100 companies in over 183 countries around the world to make life better for all. You would not be reading this if CAD engineers had not used CAD software to design computers and flat screen displays just to name a few.

Climate change, globalization, infrastructure booms, and digital technology are challenges forcing designers, engineers and digital artists to think differently about design. CAD software and educational training resources help us learn industry trends – like Digital Prototyping, Building Information Modeling, Digital Entertainment Creation, and Sustainable Design – being used to turn these global challenges into opportunities. Future designers and engineers will play a big part in solving 21st century problems with clean technology and sustainable design. We learn to apply sustainability practices to real-world design and engineering problems with CAD training in schools.

Students who learn CAD software for schools are transforming ideas into compelling 3D designs with the latest technology. Everything you touch, wear, drive, the house you live in, sidewalks, airplanes, stores and buildings, roads, factories, computers, cell phones, clothing manufacturing equipment, containers, toilets, sinks, faucets, carpet, windows, pens & pencils, soda bottles, vending machines, televisions, recreational equipment, skateboards, movie theaters, traffic signs, traffic lights, wiring, process equipment to make things and goods all started as an idea on napkin sketch and was refined into a drawings developed with CAD software to be fabricated or manufactured.

CAD interns are college students who possess expertise in a targeted area related to their course of study, and in turn, work with CAD training through schools to gain related, meaningful, project-based, real-world work experience.

The CAD Programs gives students a head start on their career and an inside look at design companies. They end up working directly with managers and engineers to deliver business and engineering solutions to real-world challenges. CAD software is used and not limited to; Animation, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Construction, Design, Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Facilities, Games, GIS/Geospatial, Industrial Design, Project Management, Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Media and Entertainment, Transportation and more.

If upper scholastic management drives to diminish the CAD programs they are nothing more than sycophants bringing false and malicious educational cost cutting at the industrial foundation of society. Hey! that pen you are using and the chair you are sitting on, poised to sign the death warrant of the CAD programs were designed by a previous student who learned CAD skills in school. Go start a fire with two sticks, use the charcoal embers to write as you sit on a tree stump and see how far you get.

By the way, walk to the nearest cave because your home and car were designed by CAD skilled people and send a smoke signal to let them know you'll be late because that cell phone and supporting cell sites were designed by CAD skilled people. If you enjoy the fruits of technology support the CAD programs, otherwise make yourself useful and plant your head in the sand so someone has a place to park their bike.

I am 100% support for CAD PROGRAM

I have BSME degree and with 30 yrs exp. in mechanical engineering design in bay area.

I took ProE class in 2003 and also today.

CAD program is very helpful for people and students they don't have PC, laptop with capability to work with CAD program.

CAD classes help unemployment people have an opportunity to get a new job.

CAD classes help me to improve my professional career.

Now 95% companies in Bay area requires mechanical engineers able to use cad system (check on all jobs post in the market)

Thx

Beginning Solidwork and Beginning Pro Engineer

I took this class mostly for educational purpose, but after taking the class, I have benefited a lot, I been using Solidwork heavily in my work. Most industries uses Solidwork and Pro Engineer (big company), I can't emphasize how important these skills are needed in the industry especially if your an Engineer. Eliminating this program would be a big loose not just for me, but also future students who wants to develop their skills and be Engineers. I haven't seen a solid program like this anywhere else.

I'm a mechanical engineer in the renewable energy industry with an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UCI. From June 2010 to January 2011, I took CDI courses in SolidWorks and GD&T. I took these courses during a period of unemployment. They were essential in helping me learn crucial skills for my industry, and I was eventually hired to my current position due in part to what I learned through De Anza's CDI program. There is so much more I can still stand to gain from the department and I truly hope that the CDI program is still around if I ever find myself in another period of unemployment. The department definitely gives purpose and invaluable skills to many people who are between jobs.

Nathan

It is very sad if CDI program being eliminated. I have been benefited by this program since 2001 taking Pro-E, Solidworks, Inventor and GD&T classes. I have found many contract jobs after taking every class. By building up my resume as a consultant in different projects for 4 years, now I have been working as a mechanical design engineer for more than 2 years. I can't express how much CDI program had great impact to my career and always wanted to make it up to the department, financially or giving free time as an assistant for new students. Although now I am not using CDI program, but I can't imagine others being deprived from the program. Please let us know what we can do to save this program that always has given us HOPE!

Fariba Javanshir

My name is Isaac Ricketts. I work for Global Satcom Technologies as a Production Manager. We design and manufacture satellite systems in Santa Clara Ca. for the Defense Department.

I am currently enrolled in my second CAD course at De anza to understand the design procedures in our products more fully. This program has greatly increased my understanding and enhanced our production procedures already.

Considering the constant outflow of California manufacturing jobs to other states and countries, De anza CAD courses help me stay competitive and help Global Satcom Technologies justify keeping our manufacturing facility in California. We have approximately 50 employees and utilize and support numerous local businesses.

We also send other GST employees to the De anza CAD program to enhance their skills and keep them competitive.

If this program was not available, the next generation of engineering design students, and current design engineers and workers connected to them in the Bay Area would be adversely affected, by losing their competitive edge, and a skill set that is very hard to attain. Please continue the CAD program at De anza, it is highly respected, and extremely useful to the designers and their teams of today and the future in the greater Bay Area.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

I'm the Print Services supervisor for the Santa Clara County Office of Education.
So I know well how the budget is affecting education.

I have taken Autocad and SolidWorks at De Anza.

I have not asked for reimbursement for taking the classes so the tax payers have not had to pay one cent for my attending but the Santa Clara County Office of Education has directly benefited from my taking the classes and will continue to benefit.

The case where there was direct benefit was in drawing floor plans for the movement of my department. Tightening budgets had created a crunch of space and it has become necessary to optimize where our departments are and how much space they use. We met with the architectural firm and began the planning.

It was made very clear that if I could draw the plans it would save thousands of dollars in expenses. Because I could use Autocad and take all the measurements myself the architect would not have to send consultants on site to do this and I'm sure I don't have to tell you how much it would cost to have a person come out and measure all the equipment, measure the facility, draft out a plan, review it, make modifications and draw it again.

Instead, I was able to do all the work and submit a .dwg directly to the architect. I have now submitted a second revision and logged many hours of what would have been expensive drafting and measuring. I would not have been able to do this had I not taken the class at De Anza.

In addition, I took Beginning SolidWorks. This again, saved our office money and will continue to save money. When our cutter broke, we found ourselves in a difficult position. The device is old and parts availability is scarce. I looked at the part and realized I could draw it in SolidWorks and find a fabricator who could take the drawing and machine the part. This is invaluable. If we could not find the part we could have faced a multi-thousand dollar expense to buy a new cutter. We could have been looking at 10-20 thousand dollars for even a used one. In this case we were able to find the part at the last minute but it was my drawing that I rendered as a PDF and sent out via email that was key to locating the part. The machines are old and there were many revisions. That drawing identified the key dimensions that saved time and searching.

SolidWorks is also key to planning. I can draw things and render them and check fits, sizes and experiment with ideas that would cost thousands of dollars to get consultants to do. I can use it a communications tool to show where things should attach to walls, holes should be drilled, etc.

This is the very reason I took the class. I realized a long time ago that there are many simple machine modifications that we could make ourselves if I had the knowledge of how to create a drawing that could drive a CNC or provide a detailed, dimensioned plan to give to someone. Again, I'm sure you know how expensive it is to get a drawing done. The consulting time and drawing is often more than the cost of actual production.

As with the AutoCad class I did not ask for reimbursement for my tuition. After all, I'm a print shop supervisor and it really isn't my job to be an engineer. But I do it because I feel a responsibility to save money wherever I can. I too am a tax payer and I have first hand knowledge of how these budget cuts are making our lives more and more challenging.

In both cases, the very taxpayers whom we're trying to give relief to by cutting programs like this directly benefited from my being able to take these classes.

The return on investment was many, many times the cost. The few hundred dollars I spent saved thousands of dollars in engineering and drafting fees.

I will draw more and more. I plan to continue with SolidWorks and AutoCad and sincerely hope that these programs are still available to provide this benefit.

I have a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and have been working as an engineer since 1981. Most of my recent work in the last 13 years has been with medical devices as a Manufacturing Engineer. I have been through a couple lay-offs and currently I am looking for work. Although I have worked regularly with designers that were using Autocad and Solidworks I was missing that expertise myself and needed to have training. I have not been selected for a couple jobs because of not having Solidworks competency.

I have looked around for classes in Solidworks in particular along the peninsula and found only classes at De Anza available that are in-depth college courses, versus one week type expensive classes that don't help you adequately. De Anza provides several courses available to build

on the training from beginning through advanced Solidworks. Also the Pro E courses are just as valuable because of the demand by companies for employees to be trained.

I worked with an accomplished designer at Beckman Coulter for 12 years and found out recently that he had his training from De Anza in Solidworks.

We need to keep your program funded and continuing!

Thank you for your efforts to keep an up to date program.

My name is Isaac Ricketts. I work for Global Satcom Technologies as a Production Manager. We design and manufacture satellite systems in Santa Clara Ca. for the Defense Department.

I am currently enrolled in my second CAD course at De anza to understand the design procedures in our products more fully. This program has greatly increased my understanding and enhanced our production procedures already.

Considering the constant outflow of California manufacturing jobs to other states and countries, De anza CAD courses help me stay competitive and help Global Satcom Technologies justify keeping our manufacturing facility in California. We have approximately 50 employees and utilize and support numerous local businesses.

We also send other GST employees to the De anza CAD program to enhance their skills and keep them competitive.

If this program was not available, the next generation of engineering design students, and current design engineers and workers connected to them In the Bay Area would be adversely affected, by losing their competitive edge, and a skill set that is very hard to attain. Please continue the CAD program at De anza, it is highly respected, and extremely useful to the designers and their teams of today and the future in the greater Bay Area.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Isaac Ricketts

If DeAnza did not have the CDI/CAD program, I would not have the motivation to take classes and go for a job. I'm a mechanical engineer with 10 years of aerospace and defense experience, but could not work from 1993 to 2008 because of a stroke. After 15 years of recovery, I was broke. I knew I needed CAD training to get back into the workforce, and paying thousands of dollars for workshops was not an option. Early in 2008, I started taking affordable CAD classes at DeAnza since it was the only college in Silicon Valley that offered real engineering CAD courses that is used in industry. In late 2008, I landed an engineering job in a great environment, and I'm positive that taking the CAD classes at DeAnza looked good on my resume, and it motivated me to move forward in my career. DeAnza CDI/CAD really saved my career, and my life.

I am writing in appreciation of the CAD program at De Anza College. I have a BS in Mechanical Engineering from UCLA. I currently work as licensed civil engineer. I took one CAD course at De Anza in ProE and it served as good practice to improve ones CAD skills. Had I remained in the area I would have considered taking more classes. The local junior college in Sonoma County does not have nearly the same capacity to teach CAD as De Anza does. Compared to UCLA the CAD instruction at De Anza is probably more impressive as far as the number of courses offered and instruction in different types of CAD programs used. In addition, it is affordable for those working on Associates Degrees and working professionals such as myself who seek to further their CAD education. It was well worth my money. The loss of the program would be a severe loss to the community especially being located in Silicon Valley.

I graduated from Berkeley with a BSME in 1983. I had a fairly long career in aerospace. I supported 2 Shuttle Spacelab flights (spent over 2 years at Kennedy Space Center & saw 11 Space Shuttle launches). I worked at fairly high levels in Payload Planning for Space Station. After that, I supported eight commercial space launches (communications satellites). After that, I found that aerospace was leaving the Bay Area for good.

In 2006, I came to De Anza and took 3 quarters of SolidWorks. I've now been at SolidWorks for an additional 4 years. There is an amazing amount to learn. Still.

The main point I'd like to make is that the De Anza CAD Dept gave me a new skill set that really augments my prior degree. I was able to get re-trained with minimal impact to society. By that I mean no extended unemployment. Simply something to do after hours; and before I knew it, it became essential for my lively-hood.

I thank you all for the knowledge you made available to me. It was also very affordable. It is very helpful for society to have options for its people. I feel the taxes I paid for years paid me back. I feel the registration dues were affordable. For those less fortunate than me (having been gainfully employed for most of the time since the University), I feel that Community College must remain within reach.

I hope this e-mail helps in some small way.

Hello, My name is Derek. I graduated from UC Davis 5 years ago with a BS in Mechanical. I am currently working for a computer manufacturing company. I have taken some great CDI classes in De Anza such as Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing, Pro/E Sheetmetal, and a Solidworks class. These classes have helped me in many area of my work. I plan on taking a few more cad classes in the coming months. I will hate to see the CDI Cad department disappear. I usually don't spend time replying to these but when I hear the budget cut might affect CDI CAD, i have to say something.

In response to Gary's announcement, I would like to add my re-enforcement not to cut the budget for DeAnza's CDI-CAD department.

I am a mechanical engineer manager and I am in the engineering industry and have worked in Silicon Valley for over 50 years now and would like to contribute my feelings about any intended budget cut for the CDI-CAD program that DeAnza College offers.

I feel it is a great benefit to students and to engineering professionals in the valley to have your CDI-CAD programs taught by what is considered the best instructors of 3d modeling software in the valley. I feel it crucial to the offer such courses to the general public and to new students who are continuing their education in such a fine college as DeAnza.

I have taken several courses in the CDI-CAD dept to keep my skills in 3d modeling current to industry advancements in 3d modeling since most of the CAD applications change quite frequently and DeAnza has been the place where engineering professionals like myself come to catch up and to learn the latest applications in computer aided design software. I think it crucial to the on-going development of engineers in the professional field to have the type of courses offered in the CDI-CAD curriculum as well as those students who are pursuing an engineering degree.

The courses in 3d modeling have enabled me to keep up with the industry's advancements in 3d modeling and also a place where I can get the "very best instruction from well qualified instructors". Gary and Max are highly respected and excellent instructors of cad tools.

Having taken the Pro-Engineer course in CDI-CAD curriculum has enabled me to perform my engineering tasks to the highest degree of using cad tools which gives me the versatility to use the different 3d modeling tools that various companies in the valley uses. It would be difficult for me to obtain instructions of the ever changing advancements in cad tools if your CDI-CAD were cancelled due to budget restraints.

I believe that I speak for the many students and professionals in the engineering industry who have attended DeAnza to get such expert instructions.

I strongly suggest that you do everything within your jurisdiction to keep the CDI-CAD program actively offered at your college.

Being formerly located far from the Silicon Valley area, I have utilized Gary Lamit's textbooks for my own CAD learning goals for several years. I have also recommended his textbooks as a foundation for training in the corporate environment. Now, I am a CAD administrator for a company in Watsonville that uses Pro/E and enjoy working with several of his graduates.

We currently have several employees very proficient in the use of the CAD tool and they all have one thing in common: they have attended Gary Lamit's CAD classes at De Anza. Proficiency in the CAD tool is of utmost importance to the employee's success and this type of training is often not readily accessible. Due to the success of employees who have attended Gary Lamit's CAD classes at De Anza, I am currently working to establish a recruiting program that hires employees directly from his classes.

The loss of Gary Lamit's CAD program would very negatively impact the recruiting efforts of our engineering departments and I would hope that this important program continues to be funded. In my view, Gary Lamit's CAD program at De Anza is irreplaceable.

Sincerely,
-Marvin Davis

I graduated from UC Davis in 2009 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Since then, I have not been employed. Because of that, I started taking CAD classes in 2010 to learn more CAD software which I didn't learn at the UC, so I can perhaps improve my skills in the job market. From 2010 to 2011, I've taken Autocad (Beginning), Pro/e (Beginning, Intermediate, Sheetmetal), Solidworks (Intermediate), Catia (Beginning). Currently, I am enrolled for Spring 2011 in Pro/e Advanced, Pro/e Surface, Solidworks Advanced.

Deanza has a lot of CAD classes that aren't available anywhere else locally, so it has helped me a lot in getting some skills employers want. If the department was to be closed down, I pretty much will not know where to go to get the training, and my chances of getting a job will be even less than it has been for my last 2 yrs of unemployment. I've taken tons of required general ed and pretty much useless classes during my University days. These are the type of classes that I consider useful, and it'd be a shame for them to be gone.

Sincerely,
Deanza student

I am a Mechanical Engineer who have previously obtained a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University and a Bachelors in Aerospace Engineering from UCLA. I worked for BAE Systems Ground Systems division for two and a half years.

I took two classes at De Anza in the CAD department - beginning and advanced Pro/Engineer. The beginning class was a good refresher to the software, and it refamiliarized me with the updated interface. The advanced class challenged me to further develop my skills and gain a better understanding of Pro/Engineer. The local availability was a great asset - when in lab, I had the opportunity to ask instructors for clarification or assistance as needed. When offsite, they were prompt to reply to any questions/concerns that I had regarding the course. As I am currently unemployed, the program allows me to improve my skillset by gaining and enhancing meaningful work skills. If the department was eliminated, I would not be able to advance my work potential as much as I have in the past quarter.

Henri Patricio

My name is Frank and I am a student at De Anza college. In September of 2008 I was laid off from my job of ten years and left to find work with skills had obtained up to that time in my career. I decided to embark upon a career as a Mechanical designer with the goal of becoming a Mechanical Design Engineer. While working for my previous employer I developed an interest in Computer Aided Design and started learning SolidWorks on the job. My interest turned into a passion, and from that passion I began to develop a career plan. I had heard about the CAD department at De Anza from a fellow employee who is a Skilled Designer so signed up for a class in SolidWorks and was very pleased with the professionalism, help, and knowledge of the staff at De Anza. Max, Gary, and Paul were invaluable in helping me be successful in learning not only SolidWorks, but PRO/E (now called CREO), and recently Autodesk Inventor. I recently ordered a book from

Amazon.com to prepare me to take the SolidWorks Certification Test, but after examining it I returned it to Amazon, because I realized I had mastered everything that was in book just from the courses I had taken at De Anza.

If this department is not kept as part of the curriculum of De Anza College you can be sure that private companies will pick up the slack, but at a much greater cost to students. De Anza College has been at the foundation of many successful careers in Silicon Valley and the bay area as whole. Gary Lamit has done a tremendous job in teaching and preparing students to work in industry or develop their own businesses. His tireless dedication to keeping and maintaining a first rate CAD department is reflected in the response from that gathering of industry people each year when he has the end of quarter get-together.

This past weekend my wife received a business card from a fellow church member who knows that I am looking for work. This person happens to be the owner of an engineering company in Redwood City. He had heard that I had taken some CAD classes at De Anza. He handed my wife his card and suggested I give him a call. I made the call today and will be interviewing with him in person this Friday. I would probably not have gotten this opportunity if I had not been prepared by getting the knowledge I needed at De Anza.

Sincerely,

Frank H.

Please feel free to use my letter of support for the CDI program at De Anza. When innovation and design move the economy, it will be because of the power of engineering communication. The programs for Computer Aided Design at DeAnza offer a wealth of skilled labor to Santa Clara Valley. I was a draftsman/person for 12 years and I know how important it is to keep up with the latest software programs and employer needs. To be competitive you have to be a learner and change with the market. It is my wish that DeAnza College and its board of directors recognize the value of their existing CDI program. It is not easily replaced in "the real world".

Sincerely,
Marcia St.Clair
Cupertino

I welcome this opportunity to speak-up on behalf of the CAD department at DeAnza. I am what you might consider a "Gray Hair" in the Silicon Valley. I have been part of several start-ups and continue to be involved full time in the technology sector. I am currently enrolled in Paul Klingman's Advanced SolidWorks class. Not only have I learned a new discipline, but I am actively preparing for a very gainful "retirement" as a consultant. My background is Reliability and Components Engineering and with the parametric model skills I am now learning, I anticipate being in such high demand that I will be able to work as much or as little as I choose while continuing at DeAnza, rounding out the CAD education with the full series of Pro Engineer, now called CREO.

DeAnza is a great school and I honestly believe, and readily evangelize, that the CAD Department at DeAnza is second to none in technology savvy, equipment, and instructors. It wouldn't be like shooting ourselves in the foot by diminishing the CAD offering. It would be more like shooting ourselves in the stomach. I will most likely have a cadre of my own employees who will also need to be just as, or more qualified than myself with many CAD skills. I'm hoping that DeAnza will continue to be able to offer the diversity and quality of CAD Tech programs that are currently available and, for a long time to come. This valley, of all places, needs the high technology skills to aggressively compete against other nations who are focused on eclipsing the USA in all technical disciplines. These CAD course make it possible for an employer not to have to export yet another job opportunity overseas. That may be the most critical issue when deciding what courses stay and what courses go.

Thank you for any and all consideration on this regard.

Douglas Alexander

I have been a student for 2 years taking courses in the cad group. The courses gave me the tools required to retool myself in the fields of engineering design and development. The skill's I have acquired with the materials and training provided me multiple opportunities. My background has been in this industry for over 20 years. Unfortunately I was laid off in 2008 and not successful in finding employment. Since 2010 I have been offered multiple projects. The classes also provided numerous resources not available anywhere else in the bay area.

It is my belief if the courses were to be phased out this would be a great loss to our community. The facility has always been supportive and very knowledgeable. With the guidance of Gary Lamit , Max Gilled and Paul Klingman. I acquired a vast diverse background of knowledge and networking resources which would of otherwise not been available.

I would seriously recommend evaluating alternative approaches/Avenues prior to any decisions have been made.

Respectfully
Student of De Anza
From 2009 to 2011

I started taking courses at De Anza CAD program in 2007. Since, they have helped me excel in my career tremendously. I started out taking basic SolidWorks and Pro/E courses and transitioned into the more advanced simulation and other modules like surfacing, cabling, etc.

Having already received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, the courses helped me take my career to the next level by teaching me how to automate designs and cut time and costs through using CAD.

I was also able to obtain an internship at NASA Ames through this program, where I still currently am. Ability to do 3-D modeling has helped to make more accurate and efficient designs of hardware for experiments as well as perform simulations to reduce prototype costs and time to final product.

De Anza College CAD program offers unmatched education and without this program the engineering industry in the Bay Area would definitely take a hit. We should support and fund the program in an attempt to bring more jobs back to the Bay Area. I still continue to receive support from the department and cutting the program would make it really difficult to complete work quickly and to the highest level of quality.

Sincerely,

Alex Polonsky

I want to thank you for keeping me, and others involved in the CAD community up to date with the happenings at De Anza. I am a businessman with 30 years experience in both design, and the sale of design services.

The SolidWorks course I took with Ken Louie was a terrific help for me, having learned drafting and design on the board, and subsequently moving into a sales role. As you might imagine, computer-based design was a challenge for a V-Track guy. Ken made it a pleasure, even with my busy travel schedule, and I am satisfied with my learning outcome.

I have personally benefited from this course both at work, and in pursuing my own product designs. It would be disappointing to me if the CAD department was eliminated, because I plan on taking additional courses, HOWEVER, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY:

I truly believe that elimination of the CAD program(s) would be detrimental to a community of young people in need of viable trades where good money can be made, and careers can be built.

Thanks again for all you and the team at De Anza do for those of us seeking to better ourselves!

Regards,

Jim McAlister
Alliance Fiber Optic Products, Inc.
408-460-1024

- I am an accomplished early-career Mechanical Engineer with a B.S.M.E. from San Jose State University. I have a substantial background in lab and field testing, quality control, fabrication, data analysis and CAD. I am currently working as a mechanist intern at the NASA Ames Research Center.
- I have been taking classes at De Anza since 2010 including Beginning Pro/Engineer (CDI70) and Beginning Solidworks (CDI60) in the Fall 2010 quarter, Intermediate Pro/Engineer (CDI71) and Pro/Sheetmetal (CDI73) in the Winter 2011 quarter, and am now taking Intermediate Solidworks (CDI61) and Pro/Surface (CDI74) as part of the Spring 2011 quarter.
- I have benefited enormously from the CDI program at De Anza. In Feb 2010 I was laid off and quickly discovered that the job market was virtually non-existent for entry-level mechanical engineers who were switching industries. Through the Government's Employment Development Department (EDD) I was able to begin a training program that would result in an advanced certificate in CAD which would enable me to be a much more competitive job candidate. Only De Anza offered a program that earned respect from local industry and was close enough to be practical. While at De Anza I discovered and was later awarded a paid internship through NASA.
- The elimination of the CDI program at De Anza would be a terrible blow to my ability to complete my advanced certificate, and would generate potentially insurmountable problems for my eligibility as an intern at NASA and my training status through the EDD. I can also tell you that local industry would suffer since personal experience at NASA has shown that most of their employees use the De Anza CAD program to update their skills and train new employees.

Wesley Rooney

I run my family's CNC manufacturing company in Fremont, CA. I am studying Business Administration and I took a Beginning Solid Works class at De Anza College to help bridge my basic understanding between the engineering and manufacturing process. Taking the beginning classes has given me the confidence to speak with engineers about their design and how it can be modified to better fit the manufacturing process. It has allowed me to prepare models and drawings to streamline the machining process for both customer and our business.

As a small business we must find ways to keep our overhead low and De Anza College has helped us find an affordable way to stay current with the technological changes. I look forward to advance my knowledge with CAD programming in the near future as the needs of our customers progress. Taking this class has contributed to our company's continue growth during this harsh economy.

K&A Precision
Linda Nguyen
Account Manager

This is my story, hope it helps. I graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of California Davis in June of 2007. After a brief stint at a pharmaceutical company in San Diego, I relocated to the Bay Area and started working at a biotech company as a test engineer for the instrumentation group in product development in June of 2008. I do a lot of hardware and assay design, validation, and testing.

When they first asked me to do rudimentary measurements of our existing instruments using Solidworks starting in 2009, I had only a few months of experience using Solidworks from my joint biomedical/mechanical senior design project in college, so I started extremely slow and was unable to complete many of the projects I was given. I took the initiative and enrolled myself in the Beginning Solidworks course by Ken Louie in the spring of 2009 and what a change it has been. Even though the class was only beginning Solidworks, it has helped me tremendously in my work in terms of 3D modeling. Often I am asked to design, model, and build 3D models to test and to use to support many different groups. One of the models that I designed, built, and tested using the Stratasys 3D printer has been manufactured by a machine shop and will be used by our field service engineers all over the world during their installation and PM procedures.

Now I will almost be with my company for 3 years now and without the CAD department at De Anza College, I might not have been able to keep my job. I have benefited tremendously by having the CAD program available locally and in the evening on weekdays and on the weekends since I work full time. I have long been interested in taking more advanced courses in Solidworks and also many of the other available CAD courses such as AutoCAD and also ProEngineer.

Extremely grateful for the De Anza CAD program.

John

My name is John Perry. I am a senior Mechanical engineer working for NASA Ames Research Center. I have led mechanical groups which have designed, built and started over 500 million dollars worth of equipment. I took a Pro-E class four or five years ago at De Anza. It was eye opening experience., It made me aware of all the tools which could be brought to bear on our most complexing problems. The first thing I ask our candidates for employment is" What computer aided design classes have you taken, and what grade did you get". There is a strong need for well trained mechanical designers within this valley.

Thank You for your time

John Perry

I am a Mechanical Designer/ Drafting professional for the past 18 years and currently a student at De Anza College. I have graduated from Hartnell College with an A.S. Degree (1990) in Mechanical Design/drafting. I am currently taking Solidworks and Pro/E courses at De Anza for the last 3 quarters of 2010/2011 which are critical tools to be learned in my working field. Autocad has always been my tool of choice but as of now most employers (upwards of 90%) require experience and knowledge of Solidworks and Pro/E among a few others that De Anza offers within their CDI program.

Closing down of De Anza CDI program would critical error for California as we venture into the 21st century for new technology and the tools / programs we use in this industry. These are very tough times for California but shutting programs such as De Anza CDI in the heart of Silicon Valley would be devastating for me and future students in the engineering field whom need employment. De Anza CDI program offers education, support, and often times employers seeks students with De Anza CDI program.

I have learned so many critical skills within this program but I will continue the need to be a student for credibility and knowledgeable to be employable in my field of work. This is vital that California continues to support community college especially in Technology and engineering field in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,
Tom Martin

I attended two classes at De Anza's CAD department in 2005. I was laid off late in 2004 and was unemployed for almost 8 months. Seeing the writing on the wall and only having Autocad and Solidworks under my belt and a lot of employers, in the area, wanted Pro-E users I knew I had to get trained on that CAD program. I could have paid a lot of money to learn the program, but then I found it being offered at De Anza. So I enrolled in Beginning Pro-E class.

I learned the basics in class and with Gary and his staffs help I became a very proficient user of Pro-E. I enjoyed it so much I signed up for the Intermediate Pro-E course the next semester. I learned the Sheet metal portion of the program and on my own I went through a few more tutorials and learned even more.

After I finished the courses and put the experience on my resume I was immediately contact for a position at a major pharmaceutical company in the area. I was able to stay employed there for a few years then went over to another company that used Pro-E.

I now have the abilities to use all three programs proficiently and am always getting calls from recruiters to go and do CAD and engineering assignments for them. I know without getting my Pro-E efficiency up with my Solidworks and Autocad this would not be happening. I feel the CAD department at De Anza was a big part of this. It is one of the best departments at De Anza because if any designer or engineer requires more training and can not shell out top dollar for it, then De Anza's CAD department is there for them. I personally know a lot of my colleagues who attended the same classes I did and even the Solidworks courses and they too will say the same thing. This Department should be kept funded at 100% so that more technical folks can have the ability to get what they need when they need it.

Stephen Guittard
CAD student 2005

I am a 56 year old engineer who is taking classes in the De Anza CDI CAD program to enable a career change. I have 34 years of experience in Semiconductor Manufacturing but my company plans to shutdown later this year and move to Colorado. Since I do not want to move out of California, I started taking classes at De Anza to improve my skills and give me a chance to find other employment locally. So far I have taken 1 class (060E Beginning Solid Works) and am about to start the second class, Intermediate SolidWorks. If the CDI CAD program were eliminated, older engineers like myself will have less of a chance to retrain and therefore a harder time of finding a job. Silicon Valley would lose a valuable resource for training new employees.

John Lilygren

I am a Mechanical Engineer working in various industry's ranging from Defense, Semiconductor, and Product Design. Although I received my engineering degree from a credible 4 year institution, I found it very difficult to transfer my theoretical experience from the collegiate level into industry. After going on several interviews, and losing out on opportunities due to my lack of practical engineering application, I decided to take classes at De Anza College. From my first CAD class, I instantly felt comfortable using the CAD tools taught at De Anza, in my case the Solidworks series (CDI 60,61,&62). Not only was the facilities up to date with industry standards, the faculty was also very personable as well. Due to the additional tools I have gained from attending De Anza, I have had several interviews. The CDI department at De Anza has allowed me to learn the material, afford the classes & course work material, and successfully implement these newly acquired skills into industry. The CAD program allows students, engineers, teacher etc., to have a chance to be competitive in these harsh economic times. To discontinue any of the services offered by the CDI program would be a disservice to everyone involved including, students, teachers, and the overall technological community. If we as a state want to continue to be leaders technologically, we can not afford the loss of any of these programs.

Sean Blanchard

Mechanical Engineer/ Mechanical Designer

408-275-6590

My name is Greg Scoby and I am the engineering manager for the water gas wastewater section of the City of Palo Alto Utilities Department. Our City has employed several former students to assist us with our mapping and design efforts. It is critical as we develop our utility systems to have readily available talent that requires minimal CAD training to be a productive staff member. We always have to teach utility engineering to new employees but employees who have already mastered CAD have a leg up on others. We currently map all of our utility systems with Autodesk products and recently migrated to TopoBase to add intelligence to our mapping system. We have established links to our SAP business module and are in the process of creating a graphical user interface for all of our operating staff and systems through this platform. Soon we will maintain valves, report gas leaks, monitor wastewater flushing maintenance, etc...

We have already adopted real time kinetic geospatial survey with an accuracy of +/- 1 cm for all construction and have started correcting our base maps to this level. A source of employees able to design, operate and maintain utility systems with robust CAD skills results in lower cost to our customers. I hope that De Anza will continue to provide CAD trained student for future consideration as employees at the City.

Sincerely,

Greg Scoby PE

Water Gas Wastewater Engineering Manager

City of Palo Alto Utilities Department

650-566-4514

I graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering where I am now a Mechanical Engineer previously employed by BAE Systems. Prior to transferring to SFSU, I finished my General Education courses at De Anza College.

After receiving my degree from SFSU, I successfully completed several CAD courses at De Anza such as: the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced courses for both Solidworks and Pro Engineer. The annual Spring career fair that is hosted by the CAD department allowed me the opportunity to secure my first engineering job at BAE Systems. The courses offered by De Anza's CAD department allow individuals, like myself, to learn new CAD programs that are used throughout the engineering industry, locally and abroad. These newly acquired CAD skills help to embellish our resumes to make us potential candidates for lucrative companies.

The CAD department at De Anza College has industry-knowledgeable faculty and a world class facility. Without the De Anza's CAD department, there would be no local institution that provides real world training for industry desired skills.

My name is Kyle Crowley, I am a mechanical designer, specializing in fixture tooling currently employed with Semiconductor Tooling Services, Inc. I use Solidworks everyday designing and detailing assemblies and parts to be manufactured in small and large quantities for semiconductor capital equipment companies.

I took almost all the available CAD classes offered by De Anza College from 2006-2008 while trying to improve my chances of more gainful employment. This included the full string of Pro-Engineer WF 3.0 courses, including sheetmetal, all of the Solidworks offerings and AutoDesk (AutoCAD and Inventor).

The only way I was able to utilize such a beneficial program was because of it's nearby location to my home. I spent the first year and half of my career at De Anza working during the day, but the last year I was unemployed and the ability to keep my commute costs down allowed me to continue benefitting from the value offered by the CAD program at De Anza College.

Obviously at this point, having been through all of the classes some might not see the benefit to me in keeping the CAD department alive and well at De Anza. On the contrary, software is ever changing and as it is I'm 3 years out of date for every program but Solidworks that I use daily. Should I have the misfortune of loosing my job it would only behoove me to apply myself to the CAD program again and take the refresher courses offered to renew my skills in the programs I've neglected in order to again improve my employability.

Without these courses being available I would have a very tough time finding a position that matches my specialty in only the one software I'm current on.

I hope you will consider the immense value of CAD in industry today and the need for courses at the local level to teach the drafters and designers of tomorrow the skills they will require. Times are hard financially, but eliminating the future generation of tax paying drafters, designers and well prepared engineers with sweeping cuts only furthers the burden to be faced in the days to come.

Thank you,
Kyle Crowley

I have taken many CAD classes at De Anza which have greatly enhanced and supported my daily tasks here at my job. Without these classes I would have taken much longer AND cost much more by going through the classes offered by the different CAD packages or value added resellers! The CAD program at De Anza, along with the facilities, labs, and computers, are without a question the best and either easy to access or easy to use. Please consider this when you review the up and coming budget cuts.
