

Panel of Experts Representing Education and Industry



Erik Nieves
Co-founder and CEO
PlusOne Robotics



James Duke Lead Robotics Maintenance Technician Ashley Furniture



Doug Parish

Dept. Chair for Industry

& Technical Trades

Edgecombe CC



Kyle CarpenterRobotics Instructor
Northeast Mississippi CC

When: Wednesday March 31st @ 3:00pm EST

The truth is, robots create jobs! So technical schools need to develop an aggressive approach to training more robotics operators, technicians, and programmers.

Join our panel of educators and industry robotics experts to discuss the role of robotics in industry in 2021, the needs for qualified robotics operators and the role career & technical education schools need to play in filling the workforce gap to grow manufacturing.

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Panel Bios

Kyle Carpenter is the Robotics Instructor at North East Mississippi Community College where the Workforce division classes are open to the public. The NEMCC robotics program started when local industry expressed a need for Robot technicians and programmers. The Robotics program at New Albany is designed to give the right training to students that will be able to transfer those skills to an industrial setting. NEMCC use Intelitek robotics training for the program and Kyle is the lead trainer. NEMCC also offer YASKAWA certifications

James Duke is the lead robotics maintenance technician at Ashley Furniture. James was a student in the very first Robotics class at NEMCC. After completing the certifications, James was hired by Ashley Furniture to be one of their lead Robot techs. James went from being unemployed to working at one of the top furniture companies in the world by getting his YASKAWA operator and programmer certifications.

Erik Nieves is co-founder and CEO of PlusOne Robotics, a software company dedicated to robotics for automated warehouse and logistics. Prior to PlusOne, Erik was Technology Director for Yaskawa Motoman Robotics for 26 years, with responsibility for the technology roadmap and emerging markets with a deep focus on collaborative applications. A tireless advocate for the industry, Erik a board member of RIA and is a frequent speaker on robotics technology and its implications to public policy. Last year, Plus One Robotics was named Best Place to Work in San Antonio, won the Customer Value Leadership best practice award from Frost & Sullivan and was named one of the '50 Most Promising Startups' by The Information.

Doug Parrish is the Department Chair for Industrial & Technical Trades at Edgecombe CC in North Carolina. Doug is the lead instructor for mechatronics and manufacturing courses and became the head of department in 2005. Before working in education, Doug worked in industry and has multiple technical certifications as an educator and as a certified trainer and has a passion for all things STEM.

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