



Overview

The College of Science and Engineering on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota is opening a new set of workshops for student innovation, invention, design and fabrication using a variety of tools and materials. The workshops support students in hands-on courses, student groups and independent student inventors. These facilities are student-oriented with students playing an essential role in training other students and in maintaining and enhancing the workshop facilities. An important goal of the workshops is to be welcoming to a diverse population of students with all levels of experience and ability, while fostering an environment of entrepreneurship, teamwork and safety.

The college seeks exceptional candidates for the full-time position of lab manager for this new student-oriented makerspace. The manager will provide innovative leadership for managing and further developing the workshops, and will serve as a mentor for students in the area of design and fabrication.

Position Functions

Manage the daily operation, maintenance and organization of the student workshops. Serve as a lead point of contact for workshop users. Manage the training and certification of student staff, volunteers and users, ensuring compliance on safety protocols and setting guidelines for use of the workshop space. Organize peer-led training workshops, which are student run sessions to train other students on tools and techniques for designing and building projects. Educate students about special technical fabrication skills and assist students in acquiring those skills. Maintain budgets, reports and statistics necessary for the running of the workshops and for the reporting on their use. Monitor revenues and expenses. Manage the maintenance and support of equipment and the inventory of supplies. Establish internal and external contacts and partnerships related to student innovation, design and fabrication. Work closely with students, faculty and staff. Maintain a culture of safety and establishes protocols for the safe and effective use of the workshops. Promote diversity and ensures that the workshops are welcoming to all. Analyze needs of workshop users and respond with appropriate programs, training and resources. Research and benchmark maker spaces around the globe, including maker spaces at other universities to bring best practices to our facility. Recommend and implement new equipment and methods to support student workshop goals. Keep current with developments in the field, and continue personal development in the field.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in engineering or a related field and three or more years of related professional experience. Demonstrated experience in design and fabrication using traditional and modern technologies.

Preferred Qualifications:

Available to work occasional evenings and weekends. Experience managing a fabrication lab. Experience teaching fabrication skills in a college environment. Experience with CAD/CAM, 3D printers, laser cutters, electronics, computer-aided design software, physical computing and PCB design.

To apply, go to <https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs> and search for Job Opening ID 311845. Women and underrepresented minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

For questions, contact the chair of the search committee, Professor Will Durfee, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota, wkdurfee@umn.edu.