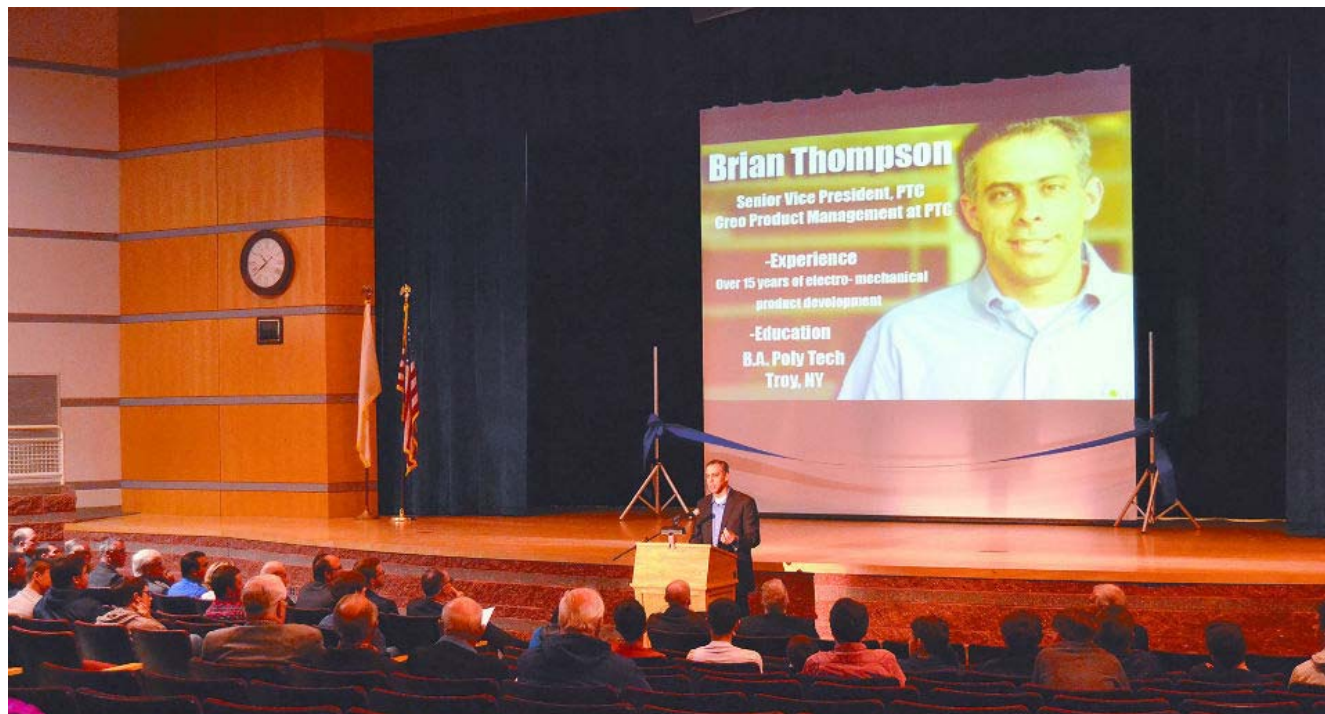


# Mashpee School Tech Center Awarded For Leading Industry Education

LANNAN M. O'BRIEN Nov 14, 2014

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Brian Thompson, vice president of product management for PTC Creo, congratulated the Mashpee High School Technology Center of Excellence on its receipt of the PTC Academy Champion Award on November 13.

Mashpee Middle/High School technology department chairman Michael P. Looney has been teaching for 20 years, but before coming to Mashpee, he had never seen the level of collaboration and creativity that students show in the Technology Center of Excellence.

"Every time we go to a conference or people come to the school they're amazed by the work that students are doing," he said, speaking at an awards ceremony at the high school on November 13.

The district has been receiving 3-D engineering and design software, software training, and professional development from PTC (formerly Parametric Technology Corporation) through the company's academic program since 2010. After completing a multi-stage review conducted by PTC representatives, the technology center was announced the recipient of the PTC Academy Champion

Award for demonstrating leadership in industry education.

A MHS graduate of the Class of 2008, Andrew Reichel experienced the benefits of the resources available to him through the technology curriculum. Influenced by his interest in drafting communications, he chose to model and renovate a cast-iron, single-cylinder, three-stroke engine for his senior seminar project. It was a project that kick-started his college career, leading him to become a mechanical engineer for iRobot, and it would not have been possible without using PTC's industry-standard engineering software.

"I had no idea as a senior that I was honing skills ... that would today become my career," he said, addressing the audience of students and faculty.

Mr. Reichel is not the only student who has uncovered a passion for engineering, animation, art or carpentry through the technology center. Following his presentation, teacher Salvatore Nocella showed a video created by Mashpee TV to showcase current students' classwork in all of those areas using industry-standard PTC software and technology. The PTC academic program is an example of industry and education "working together seamlessly," he said, "allowing [students] to be college and career ready." Moreover, Mr. Nocella said, it has saved the schools, and ultimately the town, roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 in his classroom alone.

Upon being invited to speak, Brian S. Thompson, the vice president of PTC Creo product management, said his company is the only one that provides industry-standard software for educational use in high schools. Those products teach students to be good problem-solvers, he added, which can help them advance in any career.

Mr. Thompson urged students and faculty to spread the word about the program, influencing other schools to implement technology curricula.

"What you've done here is really remarkable," he said. "We need more schools doing this kind of thing."