



**Valencia College District Board of Trustees
Foundation Report
March 14, 2024**

Lockheed Martin Partnership

On February 22, 2024, Valencia College, along with partner Lockheed Martin, dedicated the college's new Precision Optics Lab, where the first class of 14 students also celebrated their graduation.

The 15-week training program, which was launched in October 2023, is designed to meet the manufacturing sector's growing need for precision optics and photonics technicians in Central Florida.

Behind the scenes, Lockheed Martin officials began working with the Valencia College Accelerated Skills Training team two years ago, to fill a gap in photonic/optics training options in Central Florida.

To support the new Precision Optics Technician program, Lockheed Martin not only supplied funding, but provided 17 employees to serve as instructors. In addition, Lockheed Martin provided funding support for the inaugural graduation ceremony.

Lockheed Martin has worked hand in hand with Valencia College to provide expertise and guidance to various our workforce and degree programs. In fact, Lockheed has been a partner with Valencia since the founding of the College in 1967.

Since the inception of Valencia's Accelerated Skills Training program in 2016, Lockheed Martin has hired more than 135 graduates from our short-term training programs, and 37 of them have gone on to professional roles with the company.