



Napa Valley revamps innovative program

BY **Steve Goze**

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Since the inception of the Napa Valley College's Broadcast Television Engineering Technology (Telecommunications) Program in 1970, the emphasis has been on the graduation of students with the finest technical education in the field of broadcast television. In the past year, we have reviewed and revised the program to reflect the new technologies of television today. Armed with the sound footing of a program with a reputation to produce quality broadcast technicians, the program's advisory committee and the Student Learning Outcome Committee plan to further refine the direction of the program.

The Broadcast Television Program's facilities include a 1,400-square-foot maintenance lab and a 1,788-square-foot fully-functional television studio.

The studio contains three professional full-size cameras, two companion cameras, five professional format portable camcorders, professional

switcher/effects and a 40-channel audio mixer.

First-year television class work is based on TV operations. The students operate all of the television equipment in the studio. At the same time, they learn the various techniques of production and the fundamentals of electronics.

In the second year, the television classes are more technical, and students begin to gain a good understanding of electronics, as well as an intimate understanding of how the TV facility operates. They learn to install, troubleshoot and repair all forms of broadcast television equipment.



Napa Valley second-year students and Program Coordinator and Instructor Steve Goze (second from right) work on an installation project, a 40-channel audio mixer.

There are no prerequisites required for the program and any student enrolled at Napa Valley College can begin the Broadcast Television Pro-

gram. It is recommended, however, that students recently have completed an algebra class. Students in the program must also take a number of required and elective courses to acquire their associate degree in Broadcast Television Engineering Technology. In addition, networking and AutoCAD courses are recommended.

Studies define 10 different employment areas where a graduate from Napa's Broadcast Television Program may work: the commercial broadcast market, acquisition, postproduction, manufacturing, distribution, public access, home theater, corporate, educational and governmental television.

In addition, the Society of Broadcast Engineers certifies the Broadcast Television Program. Students who pass with a B or better grade are awarded the SBE Broadcast Technologist certification. Local SBE Chapter 40 is located in the San Francisco Bay area, and students are always invited to attend meetings.

The Napa Valley Broadcast Television Program has been quite successful over the years. The Advisory Committee's participation and support of the program has been crucial in this. Some committee members have been instrumental in hiring graduates of the program. Each year several companies come to the college and interview the second year students. Some well-known companies, such as ESPN, CNN, DirecTV, Sony, Industrial Light and Magic, National Mobile Television, Hewlett Packard and the Grass Valley Group, have hired graduates of our program. In fact, there have been more job openings than graduates each year and a majority of each class has secured jobs prior to graduation.

YOUTH \$CHOLARSHIP

GRADUATING SENIORS
who plan to pursue an
education in the technical

side of broadcasting may contact the SBE National Office to request an application for the next youth scholarship, or you may download one from our website at www.sbe.org. Applications for the 2005 scholarship must be postmarked by July 1, 2005. Mail to: The Society of Broadcast Engineers Youth Scholarship, 9247 N. Meridian St., Ste. 305, Indianapolis, IN 46260 or call us at (317) 846-9000.