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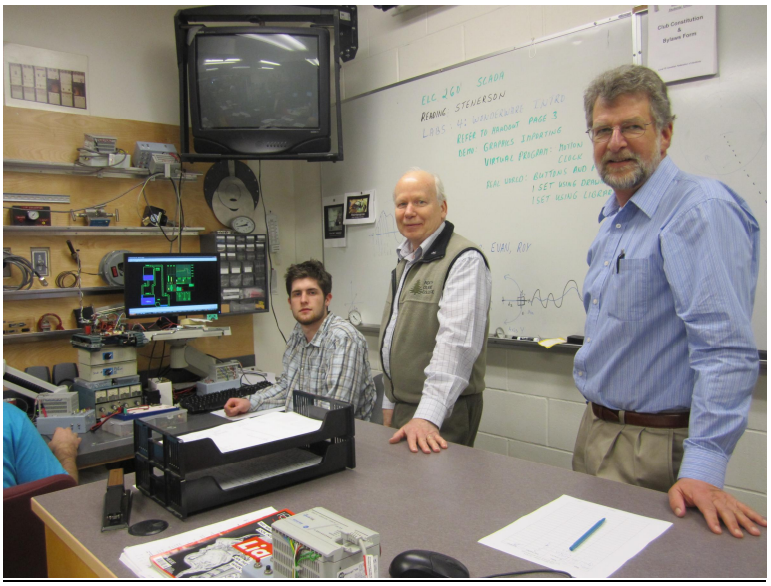
# ASTTBC Executive Director Visits North Island Community College



Dean of Trades & Technology, Don Gillingham (right) and instructor Andrew Marr, AScT (centre) are briefed by student Robin Farrell. If you look closely at the computer screen behind Robin, you can see two tanks and a pumping system joining the two. The lower tank is the supply and the upper tank is being controlled at a specific level set by the operator. The operator accesses the controls through the Proportional, Integral and Derivative (PID) three-term controller GUI faceplate to the right of the green pipe. The other two green boxes are displays showing the current status of the process and a trending chart recorder.

ASTTBC Executive Director visited the NICC this spring and spoke with students of the Industrial Automation Technician program. ñIt was a great opportunity to see first-hand what students are doing in the classroom and lab,ò said Leech. Along with the Dean, Don Gillingham and instructor Andrew Marr, AScT, John attended the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition or SCADA course in which students learn to create a Graphical User Interface or GUI that plant operators use to view, monitor, and control industrial processes such as level, pressure, flow or temperature control schemes.

The software the students learn to use is Allen-Bradley RSView and Invensys Wonderware. This graphical software is controlled by the Programmable Logic Controller or PLC that actually runs the process. The students build the graphics by either using library symbols or a drawing program and then breathe life into them by writing scripts in Visual Basic or C+.

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