Rockdale College and Career Academy Equips Students for Industry Certification Using ASCENT Courseware

The Client:
Rockdale College and Career Academy is a charter school that offers over 20 career pathways to students of the Rockdale County Public School System in Georgia. Here, students can choose to take career courses at Rockdale concurrently with their high school classes. When Daniel Scott, Architecture and Engineering Instructor, joined Rockdale his goals were to educate students using industry relevant software and to equip them to earn industry grade certifications.

The Challenge:
Prior to becoming a teacher, Scott worked at an architecture firm for 5½ years. In that role, he used training guides from ASCENT to support learning of the Autodesk Revit software. “When I joined Rockdale College and Career Academy, I knew that I had to update the curriculum. To make that happen, I needed course materials that would make complex software such as Autodesk Inventor and Revit more accessible to my students,” said Scott.

The Solution:
Within two weeks of joining Rockdale, Scott contacted ASCENT about utilizing the Revit Architecture Fundamentals and Inventor Introduction to Solid Modeling books in his classroom. The purchase process was easy and the ASCENT customer service and sales team provided flexible quotes for the school to consider.

With the ASCENT guides in hand, Scott created a series of video tutorials based on the materials. "The books have been a good scaffold to build student skills around. The videos keep students engaged and support those with different learning styles," said Scott.

Scott believes that the ASCENT learning materials help students retain information because the content is presented in engaging ways and every chapter recaps key concepts. In addition, exercise files are included in the books so students can practice the skills they have learned. Since the students love animation and video games, the Inventor class really liked the content and exercises related to complex assemblies. The Revit class also thought the hotel sample project was fun.
The Result:

This past year, Scott selected six of his twelve students to take the Autodesk Inventor Certified User exam. “All six passed on the first try, which was great. My Director is now a true believer in the value of ASCENT products,” he said.

Looking ahead, Scott plans to expand his program and double the number of students who earn certification. He would also like to start using Autodesk 3ds Max training materials in the classroom. “I would definitely recommend ASCENT materials to other schools because they serve as a direct tie to industry relevant software and can be adapted to the classroom. Since they have differentiation built-in, it’s easy to show students how problems can be solved in more than one way,” said Scott.

This summer, Scott himself took the Revit Certified Professional exam and passed with a 91% with the assistance of ASCENT Certification Preparation guides. Congratulations Instructor Scott!