

Ferris State University Online HVACR students visit campus BIG RAPIDS –

Students from around the country visited the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR the week of August 1, 2011 for laboratories as part of requirements for courses HVAC 314 taught by Associate Professor John (Eric) Quilitzsch and HVAC 333 by Associate Professor Douglas Zentz.

Comments, Associate Professor, Douglas Zentz, “On-line learning of technical material is difficult, students often comment on how much work is involved with on-line courses, and that it is hard for them to adapt to an on-line environment. Students need to adapt because on-line courses in a blended environment like this, prepare students for life beyond college. In the real world of HVACR in the 21st century, students are expected to work in this climate as they advance their professional careers.” Adding, “For the working professional, the blended environment of on-line and hands- on application is absolute for success in the on-line HVACR Engineering Technology program. The biggest advantage is the required 5-day Granger Center laboratory experience. This is where the most meaningful learning takes place – it is where the rubber meets the road.”

The Granger Center for Construction and HVACR provides the perfect opportunity for learning as it connects the brain to learning style most have (learning by doing & seeing – visual). Distance learning students in the HVACR Engineering Technology program travel to campus for five days during the summer to work with the HVACR systems and controls in the energy lab. While on campus, this lab provides hands on experience in fluid measurement, heat transfer, control programming, loop tuning and system commissioning for the distance learning students.