

RANKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

June 12-13, 2026
St. Louis, MO



TECH & SKILLS **REGIONAL** **CONFERENCES**

All Shops Welcome!

NEED NOT BE AN AERA MEMBER TO ATTEND.

**All attendees receive a FREE Tech Resource Manual,
plus many door prizes from several vendors!**

\$100
FROM
EREF

**AERA MEMBER SHOPS will receive a \$100 reimbursement from EREF
after attending any Tech & Skills Conference!**

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engine
professional®

Friday, June 12 – Conference

7:00 - 7:30 am	EXHIBITOR SETUP
7:30 - 8:15 am	REGISTRATION, VISIT EXHIBITORS
8:15 - 8:30 am	WELCOME; HOST & EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTION
8:30 - 9:45 am	TECHNICAL SESSION #1

Mike Whitcraft and Zach Lueker,
Ranken Technical College
*“Training, Upskilling, and
Interaction With Young People”*

This presentation will focus on how targeted training and upskilling initiatives can better equip machine shops to engage effectively with young people. It will explore the skills needed to connect with younger generations, including communication methods, and mentorship approaches. The discussion will also highlight how investing in continuous learning helps create meaningful interactions that support youth development, participation, and long-term success.

9:45 - 10:00 am	BREAK, DOOR PRIZES
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	2-HOUR OPEN SHOP Attendees will have the opportunity to go out into the shop to work on and run equipment in the school machine shop area. Personnel will be available to answer any questions.

12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH (meal provided on site by the host) TABLETOP EXHIBITS OPEN, DOOR PRIZES
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1:00 - 2:15 pm	TECHNICAL SESSION #3 AERA, Mitutoyo, and Ranken Technical College Precision Machining Department <i>“Precision Measuring Device Testing and Maintenance, Lessons From ISO-certified Shops”</i>
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This presentation will discuss best practices for testing and maintaining precision measuring devices, drawing on real-world experiences from ISO-certified shops. It will cover how standardized calibration, documentation, and preventive maintenance ensure measurement accuracy and compliance. The discussion will also highlight common lessons learned, including process discipline, operator training, and continuous improvement driven by ISO quality standards.

2:15 - 2:45 pm	BREAK, DOOR PRIZES
2:45 - 4:00 pm	TECHNICAL SESSION #4 Ed Kiebler, Rottler Mfg <i>“Surface Finishes Over the Years and The Differences Between Vitrified and Super Abrasives”</i>

In this presentation, you will learn about how surface finish has changed over the years and its importance. In addition, Ed will educate on the differences between vitrified and super abrasives (CBN and Diamonds).

4:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS, DOOR PRIZES, CONFERENCE ENDS
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Saturday, June 13 – Tuning Class (optional)

Open invite to all shops with information targeted to motorsports applications. For more information about this optional Tuning Class, please visit the website: aera.org/ranken.



Conference Location

RANKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

4431 Finney Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63113

Exhibitors Ship To:

RANKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ATTN: AERA CONFERENCE
4431 Finney Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63113

Hotels

THE PEAR TREE INN

2211 Market St.
St Louis, MO 63103
314-241-3200
(across from Enterprise Center
Soccer Stadium; 2.5 miles away)

ELEMENT ST. LOUIS MIDTOWN

3763 Forest Park Ave.
St Louis, MO 63108
314-639-0060

ALOFT ST. LOUIS CORTEX

4245 Duncan Ave.
St Louis, MO 63110
314-639-0050

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WHEN: JUNE 12-13, 2026
WHERE: **RANKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**
4431 FINNEY AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63113
(314) 371-0236

Register online at aera.org/attend-ranken

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

COMPANY NAME _____

AERA ID NUMBER _____ NON-MEMBERS PLEASE CHECK HERE.

COMPANY ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL OR FAX CONFIRMATION (REQUIRED) _____

SIGNED BY _____

OPTIONAL SATURDAY TUNING CLASS: NO YES: TOTAL # FROM SAME SHOP _____

FEES: \$20 per person – Please list additional attendee names from the same shop below.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

CHECK – PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO AERA.

CREDIT CARD: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXPIRATION: _____ 3-DIGIT CSC: _____

CARDHOLDER NAME: _____

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE: _____

If paying by credit card, please fax completed registration form to AERA

toll-free fax 888-329-2372

Or, **mail** your completed form with payment to: AERA-Engine Builders Association, 875 Feinberg Court, Suite 106, Cary, IL 60013.
Call AERA toll-free if you have any questions: 888-326-2372 or direct at 815-526-7600.



875 FEINBERG COURT, SUITE 106
CARY, IL 60013

JUNE 12-13, 2026

HOSTED BY RANKEN TECHNICAL
COLLEGE, ST. LOUIS, MO

ALL SHOPS WELCOME!

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AERA MEMBER TO ATTEND

RANKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**PLEASE CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR THE
LATEST UPDATES:**

**[aera.org/
ranken](https://aera.org/ranken)**

QUESTIONS?

Contact AERA:

Toll-free 888-326-2372

Direct 815-526-7600

Email info@aera.org

