

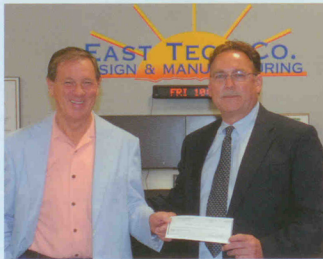
East Tech Funds Scholarships for TECH STUDIES AT CSTCC

East Tech Company President and CEO Roger Layne is funding two scholarships amounting to \$3,000 for Chattanooga State Technical Community College students in machine tool technology and mechanical engineering technology. The students holding the scholarships will serve apprenticeships at East Tech by working part-time in the evening.

Layne recently presented the scholarships to Chattanooga State President Dr. Jim Catanzaro. They are part of East Tech's Vocational

Education Initiative, says Layne, who is partnering with Hamilton County schools and CSTCC to support programs in high-tech manufacturing training at area schools. The program includes monthly plant tours of East Tech, a design and manufacturing firm, by Hamilton County middle school and high school students, as well as a vocational video featuring local manufacturing companies and offering information for students about available jobs, pay scale, and financial support for equipment upgrades for high school programs in manufacturing.

"We will develop a co-op program for high school students 18 or older who have good math and blueprint reading skills



Dr. Jim Catanzaro left, accepting scholarship funds from East Tech CEO Roger Layne.

and good attendance," Layne says. "We will continue to offer a co-op program to CSTCC students who have completed six months of the machine tool technology programs."

East Tech Company, Inc. offers precision engineering and custom-manufacturing, using the latest CNC (computerized numerical control) machining technology for applications in the power generation, asphalt paving, water treatment, automotive, textile and medical industries. Business has doubled since East Tech opened its doors in 2004.

Layne started the company in a 10,000-square-foot building with a \$1.2 million investment and \$700,000 in state-of-the-art equipment. East Tech has moved to a new 30,000-square-foot building in Centre South Riverport Industrial Park. The company, whose customers include TVA, Westinghouse, Roadtec and Alstom Power, was named one of the 100 Fastest-Growing Companies in Tennessee in 2007 by *Business Tennessee* magazine. East Tech was a finalist for a Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award and recently received the annual U.S. Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Small Business Award in Washington, DC.