

## Robot Donation to Watertown HS to Support STEM Education Practices

*The Fisher Barton Group donates a multipurpose robot to the technology and engineering department at Watertown High School*

**Watertown, Wis. (September 27, 2013)** – Students and faculty at Watertown High School celebrated the newest addition to their technology and engineering classroom Thursday, September 26, 2013 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the high school: an ABB IRB120 high-speed robot donated by the Fisher Barton Group (Fisher Barton). The company made the donation in an effort to aid Science, Technology, Education, & Math (STEM) education practices, increase students' exposure to robotics, and offer continued support to the community in which it was founded 40 years ago.

“In a meeting with the Watertown Economic Development Organization (WEDO) and the Watertown Unified School District (WUSD), we identified a gap in exposure to robotics at the middle and high school levels,” noted Mark Lessner, VP of manufacturing at Fisher Barton. “We wanted to donate the robot in hopes that it would generate excitement in the students as they gain exposure to the fields of robotics and manufacturing.”

Students enrolled in a technology and engineering class at Watertown High School will have the opportunity to use the 60x60 inch, compact, multipurpose industrial robot. The robot will be integrated into the curriculum as a training tool, allowing students to learn programming techniques and gain an understanding of its mechanics. The ABB IRB120 is mounted on a table with a template pattern for the development of several different material applications and programming capabilities.

“The ABB robot is an invaluable addition to our classroom, giving students educational opportunities that were not previously available at WHS,” said Jesse Domer, Watertown High School teacher of technology and engineering. “My hope is that the students will become comfortable with the technology and start independently creating their own programs.”



Robot dedication at Watertown HS: (from L-R) Kim Erdmann of WEDO, Dave Vitale of WUSD, Scott Mantei-Principal, Jesse Domer-WHS, Jeff Russell and Mike Porzky of Fisher Barton

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Domer, a valued faculty member at WUSD since 2006, was the 2013 recipient of the Wisconsin Technology Education Association's Teacher of the Year award. Additionally, he led the winning team of students in the SkillsUSA competition last year. His technology and engineering classes teach students about manufacturing, drafting, and engine design and development.



The ABB IRB120 robot at WHS after the ribbon cutting ceremony

Faculty at WUSD plan to grow and strengthen the engineering and manufacturing programs in Watertown through an initiative called Vision2020. Vision2020 is a collaborative effort between WUSD, industry partnerships and community organizations. It's through networks like these that the robot donation was made possible.

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With its corporate headquarters in Waukesha, Wisconsin, the Fisher Barton Group comprises eight independent companies, including Accurate Specialties, Fisher Barton Blades, Fisher Barton Specialty Products, Thermal Spray Technologies, Fisher Barton South Carolina, Lineage Alloys, Zenith Cutter, and Lund Precision Products Ireland. Together, they leverage their materials expertise and world-leading process innovations to manufacture high value components for a variety of markets including agricultural equipment, converting equipment, outdoor power equipment, medical device, recycling equipment and oil and gas markets. Business unit products consist of industrial knives and accessories, lawn mower blades, agricultural knives, power transmission components, stampings, thermal spray coatings, and heat treated weldments. For more information, please visit [www.fisher-barton.com](http://www.fisher-barton.com) or watch our [company video on YouTube](#).