

Rave Reviews for Career Websites

Two new websites promoting careers in manufacturing have been receiving much attention. Join the growing number of people visiting the PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF) site at www.pmaef.org, for a highly interactive look at career opportunities in the metalforming industry. So far in 2001, the average number of visitors per month has increased more than 300% over 2000. This site is designed to make students, educators and parents aware of the rewarding career opportunities that await them in the metalforming industry and the various paths leading to these excellent careers.

You'll also want to visit the *GetTech* career site, www.gettech.org. Over 97,000 hits were recorded on this site in the month of January, and more than 40,000 *GetTech* organizer's kits have been sent to junior high schools this year. Have you received your free kit? If you don't have one or would like another kit to help you promote to your students the importance of studying math and science in school, call toll free 1-866-468-TECH.

*What people
are saying about
www.pmaef.org...*

"I am very impressed with the website that your organization has completed. It is directly geared toward the population that you are trying to reach and provides complete information about metalforming to give high school students a wonderful resource about careers in this field. Throughout my research of various occupations, your website has been one of the most thorough and informative."

—Kim Mann, Research Coordinator
Georgia Career Information Center
Georgia State University

"The best career site I've ever seen."

—U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Statistics spokesperson

STUDENTS/TEACHERS INVITED TO SEE "INDUSTRY IN ACTION"

Students and teachers are invited each year to learn more about the metalforming industry and its technology at PMA's METALFORM Exposition. The "Student Day" program is designed to stimulate and maintain interest in the many superb career opportunities available in the industry. Nearly 300 students, instructors, and parents participated in the program at METALFORM2000 in Nashville, Tennessee, last February. This year's program, on Thursday, May 10 at the I-X Center in Cleveland, Ohio, will offer an even better experience, as METALFORM is co-locating with the American Welding Society Trade Show to create MAX INTERNATIONAL. With metalforming and welding combined into one show, there will be over 1,000 exhibitors displaying the latest metalforming, metal fabricating and welding technology.

The experience begins with an orientation to the industry given by PMA member company representatives. The orientation includes an overview of the industry, description of career path information and data, and viewing of an industry video designed specifically for students. After the orientation, the students tour the exhibits on the show floor. Contact PMA if you would like information on bringing your student group to Student Day 2001.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK STUDY SHOWS EFFECTIVENESS

A study by the Institute on Education and the Economy at Teachers College, Columbia University, indicates that School-to-Work activities such as job shadowing, which involve business/education partnerships, make a difference for students. *School-to-Work: Making a Difference in Education*, published in early February, com-

piles research and serves as a status report examining the effects of recent STW efforts. Key findings include:

- Participation in STW supports academic achievement by reducing the dropout rate and increasing college enrollment. Career Academies which link corporate involvement to secondary school education and foster small learning communities are cited as an effective model;
- STW contributes significantly to students' career preparation through exploration and work-based learning experiences. It also helps students mature and develop psychologically as they gain increased awareness of the importance of school;
- Teachers and employers are also enthusiastic about STW programs;
- There is no evidence to support fears that STW weakens academic achievement and diverts students to low-skilled jobs.

METALFORMING FEATURED IN NATIONAL PUBLICATION

Career opportunities available in metalforming will be explored in an upcoming issue of *FutureTek*, a national publication geared to spark interest among middle and high school students in science, engineering and technology.

It brings new applications, processes and discoveries into the classroom and provides information about industry-sponsored scholarships, internships, competitions, pre-college technology programs, and much more.

To view this article, go to www.pmaef.org after May 1. To learn more about the magazine and read highlights of this and other recent issues go to www.mc2pub.com.

NIMS SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

As schools learn the benefits of aligning their metalworking training programs with the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) skill standards, more and more are having their programs certified by NIMS. For more information about having your metalworking program certified, call NIMS at 703/352-4971, fax to 703/352-4991, or visit www.nims-skills.org.

MCTC RECEIVES NEW AWARD

Minneapolis Community & Technical College was selected the winner of the inaugural Clips & Clamps Industries Educational Institution Award presented through PMAEF. The annual award, sponsored by Clips & Clamps Industries, Plymouth, Michigan, recognizes an educational institution that provides exemplary training and education services to the metalforming industry. PMA's Training & Education Committee judged the award entries. MCTC, working with PMA's Twin Cities District members, designed a metalforming curriculum and has been providing training based on that curriculum since 1997, with a total of 272 graduates since then. The program is based on NIMS skill standards; students who successfully complete the curriculum are

prepared to take the appropriate NIMS exam. Eighty-five NIMS credentials have been earned by graduates, with many more scheduled to take the exam. MCTC's new \$1 million, 4200 square foot *Metalforming Training Center* supports training in metalforming basics, stamping skills, die setter training, CNC/NC turret punch press, press brake and machine programming skills. Over 300 students will be trained as precision metalformers over the next two years. Joe Fredkove, customized training manager at MCTC, will accept the award, which includes a \$3000 stipend to advance metalforming training, at a ceremony on May 6 in Cleveland during MAX INTERNATIONAL.

SCHOOLS, INDUSTRY USE METALFORMING LEVEL I CURRICULUM

In its first six weeks of release, PMAEF's *Metalforming Level I Curriculum* has been purchased by 4 schools and 6 metalforming companies for use in basic skills training. This curriculum is really three systems in one. At the basic level, it can be used to meet the educational requirements of the NIMS Metalforming Level I skill standard. A company, either through an educational partner or in its own training program, can add the basic skills from the curriculum it determines to be essential for success at the company. Or it can be used in a school-based setting as a comprehensive learning system or as a component of an overall manufacturing technology curriculum. To learn more about the curriculum and its cost, contact PMAEF.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR REACHES 1/2-MILLION VIEWERS

By the end of 2000, the video distributed to schools as part of PMAEF's *Student Ambassador Program* passed the 584,000 student viewer mark in more than 11,000 schools. This program, which includes a *Teachers' Guide* and a career information guide for students entitled *Choices*, in addition to the

career video, is available at no charge to schools. Over its four years of existence it has received over a 90% approval rating from educators. If you would like a copy, please contact PMAEF.

MEMBERSHIP

Did You Know That...

- entry level toolmakers could average \$27,000 a year during a four-year training program?
- experienced precision metalworker's earnings range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually?
- computers and high technology replace the gloomy rooms and greasy machines of the past?
- the industry has thousands of unfilled, high-paying, secure jobs that do not require a four-year degree?

Stay informed on these issues and more by joining the PMA Educational Foundation! For additional information, please review the enclosed brochure or contact Karen Hahn or Lynn Merrifield at 216-901-8800.

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING = CAREER GROWTH

Bob Meeker, with Anchor Tool & Die Company in Cleveland, Ohio, is a living testament to the power of education. In 15 years he has advanced from being a fax machine salesman to the position of Senior Advanced Product Engineer at Anchor Tool & Die. In this role, Bob works with customers to design and develop new products. What led to this success? Bob will tell you it's training. It began with graduation from an apprenticeship program to become a journeyman tool & die maker in 1991. His career path has been enhanced with continuous training in areas such as EDM, AutoCAD, CNC, drafting and design and, along with the training, came several promotions. Now, he actively "gives back" to the industry by meeting regularly with high school and post high school students to give them advice on careers in the metalforming industry. He is also the Education Chair of PMA's Cleveland District and chair of the Cuyahoga Community College Manufacturing Technologies Advisory Committee. Congratulations, Bob!

For membership information, or to learn how to get involved with the PMA Educational Foundation, or for more information on current and future Foundation activities, please call, fax or access us on the World Wide Web.

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at
SCHOOL

PMA
PRECISION METALFORMING ASSOCIATION
**EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION**