

Diemaker National Certification

The PMA Educational Foundation/*WorkingSolutions* is nearing completion of the Diemaker Certification and Credentialing system for the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). Credentialing Achievement Records (CARs) for Level II and Level III Diemaking Skills have been completed, validated and submitted to NIMS for public comment and final review. The CARs are the performance requirements and document individual diemaking abilities, duties and applied competencies – the first step in the certification process.

In April, the Diemaker Written Exam Development Committee met at the Tooling & Manufacturing Association (TMA) to develop test questions. This expert committee developed Tables of Test Specifications and then identified more than 200 potential test items that were formatted into Level II and Level III pilot exams (called item-banks). National field-testing of these questions is currently underway. Detailed item (statistical) analyses of the pilots will be conducted after field-testing to determine interim test content for each written exam. Level II and Level III exams will then be submitted to NIMS for final review, revision and approval. A special thanks to Bruce Braker, TMA president, and Dan Kiraly, TMA director of education, for hosting this event. The PMA Educational Foundation would also like to thank Buhrke Industries, TMA, Manor Tool & Mfg. Co., Morgal Machine Tool Co., Baumbich Consulting and the Milwaukee School of Engineering for serving on this committee.

NIMS Diemaking Certification and Credentialing will be available in the fall of 2005. These diemaking certification programs will directly support the objectives and intent of the new *Competency-Based Apprenticeships in Metalworking* being designed by



From left to right – Diemaker Written Exam Development Committee members Harold Emory, Bruce Broman, Rich Nielsen, Walt Oakley, Jim Baumbich and Dan Kiraly (Chris Kobus not pictured)

NIMS and its partners through a U.S. Department of Labor grant. These skill-based certifications and apprenticeships will be supported by implementation materials and strategies that have been, or are under development at PMA, such as the *Tool & Die Training and Assessment System* (currently available), *Supervisor Guides for Implementing Competency-Based Training & Apprenticeships* (available this summer) and the *Expert On-the-Job Trainer* workshop. For more information about these systems, programs and materials, contact Bruce Broman at 216/901-8800 or bbroman@pma.org.

Tool & Die Training and Assessment System

- Find out what YOUR diemakers can do!
- Assess diemaking abilities and skills.
- Document individual diemaker competency.
- Benchmark, upgrade or reinforce existing training.
- Design diemaking training & apprenticeship programs.

East Leyden High School Receives Grant

The PMA Educational Foundation has approved a grant for \$3710 to help East Leyden High School replace aging lathes for its Machine Tool Training Program. The program has been in existence since the mid 1930s and helped support the war effort during World War II. The Foundation felt this was a superior program and was happy to help such a worthwhile effort to further the education of young people in the greater Chicago Area.

Congratulations to Steve Glasder and the entire Machine Tool Program at East Leyden High School.

If you know of a similarly deserving school or program in your district, please direct them to the grant application on the Educational Foundation's website at www.pmaef.org. The deadlines for grant applications are October 1 and March 1. If you have any specific questions about the grant process, contact the Educational Foundation staff at 216/901-8800.



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