

PMAEF Sponsors Launch of MSSC Certification System

A special “thank you” to Rick Brown, PMA Educational Foundation board member, for putting the foundation in the national spotlight. After years of intensive research and work, the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) rolled out the foundational-skills Production Technician Certification program at Steelcase University in Grand Rapids, MI. This event officially announced the commercial availability of MSSC production assessments, recognized the volunteer organizations and individuals who participated in developing the system, and offered practical workshops for testing, test sites, curriculum developers, human resource professionals and union leaders.

Among the general assembly speakers was PMA member Jim McGregor, a PMAEF board member, National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) executive board member and current member of the President’s Manufacturing Council. Bruce Broman from PMA also was in attendance and represented the PMA Educational Foundation. Other sponsors included: Harley-Davidson, McGraw Hill, Steelcase, the United Steelworkers, General Motors, Intel and Lockheed Martin.



From left to right: Leo Reddy, NACFAM; Jamie Estrada, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing, U.S. Department of Commerce; Jim McGregor, Morgal Machine Tool Company; and Fred Keeler, Cascade Engineering, participate in a session launching the MSSC certification system.

Federally recognized in 1998 as a “Voluntary Partnership” for manufacturing, the MSSC is a non-profit organization, currently chaired by James McCaslin, president and COO of Harley-Davidson. The MSSC is a federally endorsed developer of general manufacturing skill standards and subsequent certification systems designed to ensure that entering workers have the foundational skills necessary for success in industry-specific training programs and jobs. For more information regarding the MSSC and other skill standard programs, contact Bruce Broman at 216/901-8800 or bbroman@pma.org.

PMA Educational Foundation Awards \$44,500 in Grants

The PMA Educational Foundation’s (PMAEF) Board of Trustees awarded \$44,500 to three projects submitted during the October grant cycle.

PMAEF awarded \$24,500 to HIRED in Minneapolis, MN for the development of an occupational English for metalforming course being developed at

Hennepin Technical College. The foundation also awarded \$10,000 to WIRE-Net in Cleveland, OH for their School-to-Career program, which provides opportunities for career path discovery in manufacturing and technology for high school students in the Cleveland Public School System. Finally, \$10,000 was awarded to Battlebots IQ, a national pro-

gram that introduces students to the metalworking industry through the innovation and engineering of robotics.

PMA’s Educational Foundation is still accepting grant applications for the March grant cycle. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2006. For more information or to download an application, visit www.pmaef.org.

New Membership Structure for PMA Educational Foundation

At its most recent meeting, the PMA Educational Foundation Board of Trustees approved a new membership structure to develop a closer partnership with companies in and affiliated with the metalforming industry, schools and other educational institutions, non-profit organizations and individuals.

Companies are encouraged to join the foundation as “Industry Partners,” schools and other educational institutions can join as “Educational Partners,” and

individuals and other not-for-profit organizations are welcome as “Friends of the Foundation.” All membership categories will receive a plaque or certificate acknowledging their partnership as well as web site recognition. Industry and Educational Partners will also be offered member savings on foundation products and services.

Please contact Anne Cunningham at 216/901-8800 or acunningham@pma.org to learn how you can partner with PMAEF.



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Training & Education for the Metalforming Industry