

Stamping Press Setup/Operator Apprenticeship Approved by U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor has approved a new apprenticeship standard for the *Press Setup Operator-Stamping* occupation under the NIMS National Guideline Standard for Competency-based Apprenticeship. As a result, stamping companies can now register apprenticeship programs for their press operators and setup technicians with the Department of Labor as competency-based programs. The apprenticeship addresses core competencies as determined by an expert panel from the industry, including several PMA member company representatives, while allowing individual companies to add additional competency requirements to

reflect their own business requirements. Workers completing these apprenticeships by demonstrating proficiency against this set of core competencies will receive nationally-recognized certifications.

This apprenticeship joins five other machining and machine building apprenticeships already approved. The standard for *Tool and Die Maker – Stamping* has been submitted to the Department of Labor and is expected to be approved soon.

For more information about NIMS, visit www.nims-skills.org. To learn more about how to implement these apprenticeships at your company, contact the foundation staff at 216/901-8800 or pmaef@pma.org.

FOUNDATION



At Work

PMAEF Announces Best Practices Symposium

The PMAEF will gather the best career awareness and training programs in the country for a Best Practices Symposium. The event will take place in September 2006 at PMA headquarters. Plans are being developed and additional details will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham at 216/901-8800 or acunningham@pma.org.

FOUNDATION

Student Skills on Display at BattleBots IQ

Hundreds of students from high schools and colleges across the country participated in the BattleBots IQ National Robotics Competition in Miami, FL, April 26-30. The PMA Educational Foundation participated as a funding sponsor for the event.

With names such as "Blood, Sweat and Gears," "Critical Impact," and "The Blender," the robots, built and "driven" by high school and college teams, went at each other in three-minute matches in both 15- and 120-pound competitions. This culminated a full school year of work in which students were responsible for researching, designing, building, testing and maintaining their robots.

BattleBots IQ is an educational program that includes curriculum, teacher training and an exciting competition that inspires, educates and engages students through the art of robot building. The BattleBots IQ Robotics Curriculum can be implemented in schools in a variety of ways—as a stand-alone robotics class; integrated into an existing class



Hundreds of students gather for the annual BattleBots IQ National Robotics Competition.

such as technology studies, electronics, physics or other related subjects; or organized as an after school club.

For information about the program or to learn how your company can work with a local school to organize a BattleBots IQ team, please visit www.battlebotsiq.org or contact Dave Sansone at 216/901-8800 or dsansone@pma.org.

NEWS & NOTES

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Training & Education for the Metalforming Industry