

Foundation Supports Rewarding Industry Programs

More than \$80,000 was granted during the 2006 PMA Educational Foundation Grant Cycle. With this money, the PMAEF supported the following rewarding programs:

- East Leyden High School in Chicago, IL, received funds to replace aging vertical mills in the Machine Tool Program, a program that has existed for more than 80 years.
- Battlebots IQ in Miami, FL, received support from the foundation to support the national Battlebots IQ high school and college competition.
- WIRE-NET in Cleveland, OH, received funds to support a school-to-career program at Max Hayes High School, the Cleveland Public Schools' only vocational school.
- HIRED/Hennepin Technical College in Minneapolis, MN, received monetary support for the development of an Occupational English in Metalworking Curriculum.
- Connecticut Business and Industry Association in Hartford, CT, received funding to support a two-day career expo entitled "Manufacturing your Future."

- The National Institute for Metalworking Skills in Fairfax, VA, received support to administer the Precision Manufacturing Technology SkillsUSA National Competition.
- Science Olympiad in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, received support to enhance career awareness of science and engineering in a PMA district.
- Jane Addams Resource Corporation in Chicago, IL, received support to conduct the Manufacturing Technology Summer Camp.
- Erie Community College in Orchard Park, NY, received monetary support from the foundation to establish a model community college credit-bearing metalforming summer institute for high school students.

Do you know of a successful program from your area of the country? The PMA Educational Foundation is always looking for grant programs to support. Contact Anne Cunningham at 216/901-8800 or acunningham@pma.org to receive a copy of the grant application. Grant applications are accepted at any point during the year, and will be reviewed after the October 1 and March 1 deadlines.

Minnesota Makes It Happen

PMA members are participating in an innovative program designed to meet employer needs by providing manufacturers in the Twin Cities District with well-trained entry-level employees who have the necessary skills for on-the-job success. The "Minnesota Make It Happen" metalforming skills program helps employers meet demands for a skilled workforce by connecting industry, education, workforce development service providers and potential employees.

"What's unique about this program is that employers drive the demand and the content," says Joe Fredkove, director of training and business development at Hennepin Technical College, which is carrying out the training effort. Fredkove also is a member of the PMA Educational Foundation Board of Trustees. "Manufacturing companies are asking for highly focused training that prospective or newly hired employees can complete in a short timeframe. The intense, short-term curriculum ultimately places employees on a path for career development."

The 23 companies actively supporting the effort include many PMA members. Among the project

leaders are Deborah Cooper, president of Rotation Engineering and co-chair of the "Super Advisory Group" guiding the effort; Erick Ajax, vice president of E.J. Ajax & Sons; and Elizabeth Abraham, CEO of Top Tool. According to Ajax, "In its first year, the program has more than 60 graduates, with most being able to find jobs and career ladders into our industry." Abraham believes this investment in training is helping to meet business objectives and is having a positive impact on the bottom line. "Only with highly trained employees can we meet our goals of providing a quality product in a timely manner for the best value. When we do that, we can better meet our customer demands and increase sales."

Funding for the project is provided through the Center for Workforce Success at the National Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing Institute, the Annie Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Hitachi Foundation and the PMA Educational Foundation.

For more information about the project, contact Dave Sansone at 216/901-8800 or dsansone@pma.org.



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Training & Education for the Metalforming Industry