

# Precision Machining Technology Competition Featured at SkillsUSA

Sixty-four contestants, all gold medalists in their state level competition, participated in the two-day precision machining technology competition held during the 2006 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, MO, June 22-23.

This year's competition was managed by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) and partially funded through a grant from the PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF). Working against the clock and each other, the contestants competed in the NIMS Level I and II machining skills and knowledge areas including the operation of manual milling machines, drill presses, lathes and surface grinders as well as CNC programming. Related knowledge and skill in the area of engineering drawing interpretation, GD&T, technical math, machining practices, use of precision measuring tools and the ability to communicate using proper



Alex Morena, far right, joins the other precision machining technology competition winners on stage at the awards ceremony for SkillsUSA.

industry terminology was also evaluated.

In addition to its grant support, PMAEF sponsored the award for the silver medalist in the secondary school category, Alex Morena, South Shore Vo-Tech High School, Hanover, MA. Congratulations to Alex and all of the participants!

## Welcome to the New Partners of PMA's Educational Foundation!

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- Die-Tech, Inc.
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To join the growing list of partners of the Educational Foundation, contact Anne Cunningham at 216/901-8800 or [acunningham@pma.org](mailto:acunningham@pma.org).

## Speaking OEM

The Occupational English for Metalforming (OEM) pilot has been completed at Hennepin Technical College in Minneapolis, MN. OEM is a unique curriculum, as opposed to traditional English as a second language courses, as it focuses on improving the ability of non-native English speakers to learn specific elements of the language that they will be able to apply in concert with their job skills to communicate in the manufacturing workplace.

The 14-week program was designed for non-native English speakers working in the metalforming and metal fabrication industry. Although the students came from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, the OEM courses were beneficial to all, and everyone who completed the program made significant improvements in applied written and conversational English. Students also expressed that the intense study of vocabulary and taking time to contextualize the things they heard at work were two of the most beneficial aspects of the learning experience. Pre- and post-test comparisons rendered gains from 14 to 50 percent, and

several students retook the NIMS test and found their participation in the program helped them improve their scores. In addition, OEM Supervisor's Training Seminars were offered to assist companies in the many challenges of bridging cultural and language barriers and applying best practices in the training of non-native English employees.

Congratulations to Joe Fredkove, David Atterberry and Jonathan Stuart of Hennepin's Customized Training Center for successfully developing and delivering this unique and necessary program. Mr. Fredkove and Mr. Stuart will be presenting the program at PMAEF's Best Practices Conference on September 26-27 at PMA headquarters.

The OEM program was partially funded by a grant from the PMA Educational Foundation. A revised OEM curriculum will be available to interested PMA districts, members and educational institutions later this year through the foundation. For more information about the program, contact Bruce Broman at 216/901-8800 or [bbroman@pma.org](mailto:bbroman@pma.org).



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