

# District Leaders and Educators Meet at Second Annual Best Practices Event

Thirty people representing 14 PMA districts participated in the 2007 PMA Educational Foundation Best Practices Workshop on September 12-13 in Cleveland, OH. This program annually brings together educators and district leaders to share workforce development models for the metalforming industry that have successfully enhanced career awareness and provided training and education to entry-level and incumbent workers.

The event began with a tour of the manufacturing technology lab at Cuyahoga Community College near downtown Cleveland and a presentation on unique individually paced learning modules making use of computer-generated avatars. It also featured a powerful presentation by a recent graduate of Cleveland's Max Hayes High School's Manufacturing Technology Program. He explained how the program and the job he secured as a result of it have changed his life.



John Gajewski welcomes attendees to Cuyahoga Community College, where they toured its manufacturing technology lab.

Other presentations described:

- Indiana District's *Lean Roundtable* user groups
- *Basic Welding Skills Boot Camp* at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, IL
- WIRE-Net's *Where Futures Matter* initiative to attract youth to Max Hayes' Manufacturing Technology Program
- Hennepin Technical College's *M-Powered Program* for training in the Twin Cities District
- *Dream It Do It* campaigns supported by the National Association of Manufacturing Center for Workforce Success
- The Lincoln High School, Warren, MI, manufacturing technology curriculum, winner of the 2007 Clips & Clamps Educational Institution Award
- Craven Community College's pre-employment training in New Bern, NC
- NIMS competency-based apprenticeships
- Development of a training center at Penn United Technologies, Saxonburg, PA



"TJ," a graduate of Max Hayes High School's Manufacturing Technology Program, explains how his education helped him secure a good job and changed his life.

A discussion group is being organized for participants to continue their dialogue through the web. To learn more about these and other workforce development initiatives, contact Amy Thacker at 216/901-8800 or athacker@pma.org.

## PMA Member-Company Employees Earn First NIMS Trainer Certifications

David Buxton and Kevin Miller of Ohio Stamping and Machine LLC (OSMI), a PMA member company in Springfield, OH, are the first in the nation to earn the new OJT Trainer Certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). OSMI is one of the McGregor Metalworking Companies.

The new certifications are a component of the NIMS Structured On-the-Job Training Program being launched nationally in November 2007. NIMS is developing the program with assistance from the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. The certifications require employees to demonstrate their training skills against industry-developed competencies through a workplace performance assessment and theory examination. The NIMS Structured OJT Program also includes certifications for Senior OJT Trainers and

Company Training Coordinators. OSMI is one of 20 companies in 17 states that are piloting the program.

"In today's manufacturing environment, with ever-increasing demand for high skills to meet rapid technological advances, on-the-job training is mandatory," says Greg Chambers, NIMS chairman and EHS and training manager at Oberg Industries, a PMA member company in Freeport, PA. "We saw a critical need to assist American manufacturing companies by giving them these tools. This will enable them to deliver training more effectively at the workplace to assure that their workers can remain globally competitive."

To learn more about this or other NIMS certifications, contact NIMS at 703/352-4971, [www.nims-skills.org](http://www.nims-skills.org); or contact Dave Sansone at the PMA Educational Foundation, 216/901-8800, [dsansone@pma.org](mailto:dsansone@pma.org).



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