

Precision Machining Technology Competition Featured at SkillsUSA

The gold medal winners in the Precision Machining Technology Competition held during the 2007 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, June 27-28 in Kansas City, MO, will have more than their medals to remember. Jon Welser from Saint Clair Technical Center in Marysville, MI, first among 42 secondary school contestants, and Josh Bovey of Boise (ID) State University, the top scorer among 30 post-secondary state winners, will be going to Switzerland this fall. Their 10-day trip to learn about metalworking trades in Switzerland is sponsored by the Swiss government, and Swiss Minister Martin von Walterskirchen was on hand to present the awards.

All of the 72 contestants were winners in their own right, having advanced from state competitions to the national stage in Kansas City. The contestants competed against each other and against the clock as they programmed CNC mills and lathes; made precision parts on grinding and milling machines, lathes and drill presses; and demonstrated their process control and precision measurement skills. They were also tested on their related knowledge in areas such as geometric dimensioning and tolerancing and engineering drawing interpretation.



From left: Jeff Washburn, Alex Morena, Josh Bovey, Minister Martin von Walterskirchen, Jon Welser, Scott Anderson and Alex Johnson.

Alex Morena, South Shore Vo-Tech High School, Hanover, MA, and Jeff Washburn, Gateway Community College, Phoenix, AZ, were silver medalists in secondary and post-secondary, respectively. Alex Johnson, Miami Valley Career Technical Center in Dayton, OH, won the secondary level bronze, and Scott Anderson of Saint Paul College, Saint Paul, MN, took the post-secondary bronze.

This year's competition was managed by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) and was based entirely on NIMS Levels I and II Machining Standards. It was partially funded through a grant from the PMA Educational Foundation.

PMAEF Accepting Grant Proposals Until October 1

The PMA Educational Foundation's (PMAEF) Board of Trustees has announced a 2008 grant budget of \$184,000 and encourages applications for its October cycle. PMAEF invites proposals for funding from organizations and initiatives whose programs and services promote, enhance and/or support the development of a skilled North American metalforming workforce. Grants typically average \$10,000 per request awarded. Qualified organizations may download an application at

www.pmaef.org or contact Amy Thacker at 216/901-8800 or athacker@pma.org. The deadline for the upcoming grant cycle is October 1.

In the past 10 years, PMAEF has awarded more than \$825,000 in grants to support the PMAEF mission: *To create the means to educate and motivate the current and future workforce of the North American metalforming industry.* Previous recipients have included high schools, community colleges, PMA districts and other not-for-profit organizations such as the National Institute for Metalworking Skills.

PMAEF Honors First Certificate Program Recipient

On July 12, the PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF) awarded its first Sheet Metal Certificate to Holly Rackham of Utah Stamping Company, Clearfield, UT. She earned the certificate by completing three PMAEF courses: Sheet Metals 101, Amateur Metallurgy and Higher-Strength Steels. PMAEF congratulates Holly on her achievement!

Metalforming industry professionals may become certificate recipients by completing the seminar series, which consists of Sheet Metals 101, Amateur Metallurgy, and either Troubleshooting

Formability or Higher-Strength Steels. An Advanced Certificate may be earned by adding a fourth course—either the Circle Grid Analysis or Forming Limit Diagrams seminar.

By completing these courses, metalformers increase their knowledge of sheet metal and its formability. The resulting improvement in skill levels benefits their companies and promotes career advancement.

To learn more about these programs, contact Michelle Underwood at 216/901-8800 or munderwood@pma.org.



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