

District Leaders and Educators Share Best Practices in Workforce Development

The PMA Educational Foundation's (PMAEF) third annual Best Practices Workshop brought together educators and district leaders to share workforce development models for the metalforming industry. Thirteen PMA districts were represented at the workshop, held at PMA headquarters, June 3-4. Members and educators heard presentations about how other schools and manufacturers are building relationships to enhance career awareness and provide training and education to entry-level and incumbent workers.

An attendee favorite was Vanessa White of Milwaukee's Riverworks Development Corp., who kicked off the session by describing her workforce development organization's Press Operator Training Program. White passionately addressed the need for workforce development initiatives to focus on career pathways, and not just entry-level training. White described Riverworks' new press operator courses, which focus on students achieving NIMS level two and three certification to further workers' lifelong learning.

Participants also heard from high school educators aiming to develop an interest in manufacturing among students, as well as helping their students to graduate with employable skills. Dave Mikita of Cleveland's Max S. Hayes High School described his T.E.A.M. (Technology, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing) Academy model and the sharp increase in enrollment that Cleveland's only vocational tech high school has seen over the past few years. The Twin Cities' Benito Matias from the newly formed Dunwoody Academy, a charter



Carolinas District Chair Bob Dickerson, Red Education Consulting Services, reviews materials during the PMAEF Best Practices Workshop.

school sponsored by Minneapolis' Dunwoody Technical College, explained the challenges and advantages of starting a charter school to train students in a vocation. Lastly, Dan Swinney from the Center for Polytechnical Education in Chicago explained how Chicago decided to reopen a shuttered urban high school and form the Austin Polytechnical Academy to train students in advanced manufacturing.

Other presentations included Dietra Rosenkoetter of the Indiana District describing its Advanced Die Protection Curriculum Development. Jim Wall and Eric Gearhart reported on SkillsUSA and how local industry and schools can become involved. Bob Dickerson of the Carolinas District explained how NIMS accreditation may be achieved for schools in PMA districts. Finally, Judith Crocker of MAGNET, the Manufacturing, Advocacy and Growth Network, explained how Northeast Ohio is tackling manufacturing's workforce development challenges.

Anyone interested in finding out more about these presentations may contact Amy Thacker at 216/901-8800 or athacker@pma.org.

PMA Honors Certificate Program Recipient

On May 22, Bryan Stitt of Bose Corp. became the second person to earn a PMA Educational Foundation "Sheetmetal Certificate." In order to accomplish this, he participated in the Sheetmetal 101—Understanding the Metal, Sheetmetal Forming—Understanding the Problems and Higher-Strength Steel—Solving the Problems seminars.

Congratulations to Bryan on this achievement. Others can join him as a certificate recipient by completing the following seminar series:

1. Sheet Metals 101
2. Amateur Metallurgy
3. Troubleshooting Formability OR Higher-Strength Steels

Or, an advanced certificate can be earned by also attending either the Circle Grid Analysis or Forming Limit Diagrams seminar. To learn more about these programs and their benefits, contact Michelle Underwood or Deanna Cunningham at 216/901-8800.



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