

PMA Educational Foundation Awards \$25,000 in Grants

The PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF) Board of Trustees awarded grants totaling \$25,000 at its meeting on April 21 in Washington, D.C. The board awarded grants to three programs it determined would further the foundation's mission: "To create the means to educate and motivate the current and future workforce of the North American metalforming industry." Following is a summary of the grants awarded:

- \$5,000 to Friends of the Workforce Investment Board, St. Paul, MN, for the replication of the successful M-Powered program. M-Powered began in 2004 as a collaborative effort of Hennepin Community College, HIRED and the PMA Twin Cities District to prepare workers for high-paying, skilled jobs in metalforming. The new initiative will bring a similar program to the east side of the Twin Cities Metro area.
- \$10,000 to the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) to support the Precision Machining Technology competition at the 2008 SkillsUSA competition, which brings state champions together to compete for gold, silver and bronze medals.

- \$10,000 to WIRE-Net, Cleveland, OH, to support its "School-to-Career: Youth and Adults Forging Careers in the Metals Sectors" initiative. The award will be targeted toward the School-to-Career and Project HIP HOP programs. The School-to-Career program works closely with students at Cleveland's Max Hayes Vocational High School to help them navigate from an education in manufacturing to a career in manufacturing. First-year Project HIP HOP (Helping to Improve Post-High Occupational Progress) targets Cleveland's at-risk young adults in danger of becoming permanently detached from the labor market; Project HIP HOP helps them gain access to resources needed for a career in manufacturing.

PMAEF congratulates all of the grant recipients from this cycle. The foundation accepts requests for funding from organizations whose initiatives, programs and services promote, enhance and/or support the development of a metalforming workforce in the United States. The deadline to submit applications for the next grant cycle is October 1, 2008. Qualified organizations can download an application at www.pmaef.org or contact Amy Thacker at 216/901-8800 or athacker@pma.org.

PMA Educational Foundation Board Meets with NAM

The PMA Educational Foundation board meeting on April 21 in Washington, D.C., featured a lengthy discussion with representatives of NAM's new National Center for the American Workforce.

Jennifer McNelly, vice president at the NAM Center, and Peg Walton, director, described the vision, mission and focus for the newly created organization, which is under the direction of Emily Stover DeRocco, former Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training at the U.S. Department of Labor. They shared ideas with the board and encouraged active communication and cooperation on workforce development issues. To further strengthen the relationship, Dave Sansone, PMAEF executive director, has recently been appointed to the newly created Workforce Development Task Force of



NAM's Council of Manufacturing Associations.

While in Washington, the board also met with several congressional staffers to learn more about workforce development issues such as "No Child Left Behind" legislation, Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, industry/education partnerships, the Workforce Investment system, and career and technical education. For more information, contact Dave Sansone at 216/901-8800 or dsansone@pma.org.



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