

Donations Being Accepted for 2009 PMAEF Silent Auction

The PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF) Silent Auction will go online in 2009. The item catalog now is being built for the auction opening at the Inaugural Spring Technical Conference to be held in Cleveland, April 26-28. This is your opportunity for special recognition at this event.

Donations of equipment, machinery, support and consultation services, seminars and workshops, vacation packages, condo rentals, sporting goods, tickets for sporting events, artwork and memorabilia will be accepted...anything with a minimum retail value of \$100. All items including donor recognition will be posted online for bidding by those in the metalforming industry and the general public. All of the proceeds raised through the Silent

Auction are recycled back into the industry through grants awarded to industry programs that promote metalforming as a career or that develop training for incumbent workers. More effective employees lead to a more productive industry!

All donation commitments received by April 15 will be featured and donors recognized at the Spring Technical Conference, in *MetalForming* magazine and in *Update*. To learn how you can be a donor, please contact Amy Thacker at 216/901-8800 or athacker@pma.org, or go online at pma.org/edufound/donor-form.pdf for a donor form. Feel great supporting your industry and, since PMAEF is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, your donation may be tax-deductible.



Foundation Launches District Apprenticeship Initiative

Effective December 13, 2008, the United States Department of Labor has new regulations governing apprenticeships—the first such changes in 31 years. These changes and provisions allow for competency-based apprenticeships, new electronic/online and distance learning options, and issuance of interim credentials. Companies now have the flexibility to continue the traditional time-based approach, or move to innovative and accessible competency-based apprenticeship models or hybrid (blended) approaches that combine time and competency, credentialing and assessment, structured on-the-job learning, trainer certification and multi-mode delivery of related technical instruction.

So, why go it alone? The PMA Educational Foundation (PMAEF) will design and develop collaborative PMA district-based apprenticeships in press setup/operations, diemaking/die maintenance, CNC machining, metal fabrication, welding and electrical/mechanical maintenance. Times are tough; time to circle the wagons and do things together for the benefit of you and your district.

“You can’t make a good part with a bad print” – That also applies when developing apprenticeship programs. It is all in the “design!” Using proven models, techniques and methods, PMAEF’s *WorkingSolutions* can assist your district in creating and implementing an effective 21st century apprentice program (registered or not registered) to meet your needs and the needs of the apprentice.

PMAEF’s systematic approach provides a valid, defensible and DOL-compliant “learning and doing” atmosphere that creates more flexibility for apprentices and employers. In addition, the program development design provides for increased and new choices and options to meet the needs of industries that have traditionally used registered apprenticeship programs, as well as connecting with local workforce and employer demands. For information about how your district can benefit from these new regulations and help form a coalition to fund and implement a district-based apprenticeship program, contact Bruce Broman at 216/901-8800 or bbroman@pma.org, or log onto www.workingsolutions4u.org.



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