

Precision Machining: Blueprint for the Future

Employers look to student training to fill jobs

When Area 18 CTE gets a good idea, they go all out. The first "Machinery Challenge," was conceived by Area 18 Precision Machine programs at Huntington North and South Adams. It was created to bring precision machining students throughout northeastern Indiana together with potential employers who are in need of well-trained employees.

"Today is all about the students," explains the South Adams precision machining technology teacher.

On May 4, 2012, the machining programs invited professionals all the way from Ft. Wayne to Muncie - and locally - to come and talk with student and witness the students' skills first-hand.

Employers watched students, teamed up in groups of four, set out

to prove their abilities in a machine challenge that included blueprint interpretation and the creation of the object in a timed format.

Students used the manual milling machine, manual lathe and surface grinder, metallurgy and

machine shop knowledge, including competence in trigonometry, algebra, geometry and shop safety.

"Not many programs are left that can train students with these kind of skills," Delaware Dynamics Human Resources and Safety Director Richard Taylor said.

Taylor was one of nearly 20 industry leaders who watched the students in this competition, where potential employers reviewed their resumes and had a chance to talk one-on-one with students.

According to Taylor, beginning wages for entry level, skilled machinists begins around \$30,000.

CTE students also have a chance to compete in Skills USA at the state and national levels, plus earn dual credits with Vincennes University toward their first year of college or trade school.



POSSIBLE OCCUPATIONS

- Machinist - \$31,828
- Electrical Eng. - \$56,745
- Industrial Eng.- \$56, 587
- Service Manager - \$54,715

CLASSES at SOUTH ADAMS

- Precision Machining I, 2 cr.
- Precision Machining II, 3 cr.

*** Earn Dual Credits with Vincennes University**



The first-ever "Machinery Challenge" attracted 16 students from northeastern Indiana and nearly 20 potential employers who watched the students compete in interpreting a blueprint and creating the object using precision machines under a deadline. Students also took a written test and met with the professionals during the day-long event.



Precision machining students train on equipment that will give them entry-level skills for the workforce following graduation. Company reps say they are "desperate" for these skills.



Six students from Area 18 CTE schools - including South Adams students - competed and placed in the Indiana SkillsUSA contest for 2012. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Students are given the opportunity to compete at the state and national levels for scholarships, other honors and industry prizes.

What employers are saying...

"Companies like ours are desperate for students who can come out of school with the ability to use precision machines. And they can be hired right out of high school if they do." - **Human Resources and Safety Director Richard Taylor, Delaware Dynamics**

"We would like to build relationships with our schools to assist students in choosing career/education paths from high school through college to their first career position. We would like to keep our local talent in the area." - **HR Generalist Sunita West, Micromatic, LLC**

"Development of future employees for Hoosier Pattern and other manufacturing businesses here in Adams and Wells counties is really important to all of us." - **President Keith Gerber, Hoosier Pattern Inc.**