U.S. Department of Army Renews Training Contract with PMI, Adds Additional Training Programs

This summer, the U.S. Department of Army renewed its training contract with PMI for a two-year term and has also organized additional training programs through the partnership.

The new contract includes five two-week training sessions at the Department of Army’s Virginia base and two four-week training sessions at PMI’s facilities in Meadville. Each set of sessions also includes the option to host further sessions.

Since the partnership inception, PMI’s CNC Machinist classes to civilian interns pursuing degrees in mechanical, chemical, or electrical engineering at colleges and universities, such as Virginia Tech, University of Florida, University of Wyoming, and University of New Mexico.

Along with the Basic Metal Machining class, the Department of Army has asked to incorporate another set of two-week classes for G&M Coding, which will teach students the language that the CNC machines understand. Unlike the Basic Metal Machining classes, the G&M Coding class will involve more class time with a larger group of students. The Basic Metal Machining class is more hands-on training with an intimate class size.

Through the contract renewal, the Department of Army is also interested in bringing a CNC lathe machine to PMI for the program. Though not confirmed, the lathe would be the third piece of equipment brought to PMI, and would join two CNC machines brought in during the initial contract. The renewal went into effect on June 1, 2015.

CNC Machinist Program Receives New Technology in Lab

With the industries ever-changing technologies, PMI is pleased to announce that it has acquired a Mazak QuickTurn Universal 250MY for its CNC program. The new machine will bring advanced equipment to PMI’s hands-on training curriculum and provide students the opportunity to work on technology that is used in manufacturing today.

Funding for the machine came from a state grant. “The new Mazak machine is an exciting addition to our current lineup of equipment found at the school. Not only will it enhance training to meet local industrial needs for current students, but it will also be a great addition to our thriving industrial training program for local businesses interested in advanced training for their employees,” said PMI Director Jim Shore.

The Mazak machine was delivered to PMI at the beginning of August and will be set up and implemented into the school’s current training courses this fall.

To check out the new Mazak machine, schedule a tour by calling (855) PMI-8787 or attend our Fall Open House, Saturday, October 10, 2015.

CPT Certification Available at PMI

In today’s workforce, it is important to stay up-to-date on evolving technologies and standards. As a way to help educate local manufacturing companies, PMI is pleased to offer Certified Production Technician (CPT) assessments through its Industry Training program.

The CPT is one of two certifications offered through the Manufacturing Standards Council (MSSC), “an industry-led training, assessment and certification system focused on the core skills and knowledge needed by the nation’s front-line production and material handling workers” (www.msscusa.org).

Through this certification, there are four basic modules of CPT instruction that include safety, quality practices, manufacturing processes and production, and maintenance awareness. The MSSC awards certificates to individuals who pass any of its production modules. A full CPT Certification is awarded to those individuals who pass all four of the original modules.

At PMI, courses run three hours per day, two days a week for a total of 11 days per module.

Since the school started teaching CPT courses over a year ago, PMI has seen an extreme need for these classes, with rosters at maximum capacity.

Currently, there are three instructors at PMI who are certified to teach these certification classes in their fields of study: CNC Instructor John Adams, Electric Arc Welding Instructor Chris Hartman. In addition to the CPT Instructor Certification, John is also certified in Green Production.

While PMI only instructs the certification courses, school officials are in the process of establishing the school as a CPT testing site. Currently, the closest test sites are located in Erie, PA.

In addition to CPT Certification courses, PMI also offers customized industry specific training programs designed specifically to meet company’s needs.

Industry Training Manager Matt Crouch will be available to answer any questions about the program.

Fall Open House will run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information or to register for Fall Open House, please call (855) PMI-8787 or visit www.GoPMI.org.
**ACCSC Reaccreditation Process Continues at PMI**

PMI recently began the reaccreditation process for the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), which is a voluntary, non-governmental, peer-review process that seeks to assess and enhance the educational quality of an institution, ensure consistency in institutional operations, promote self-evaluation and institutional improvement, and provide for public accountability within a peer-review framework.

According to their website, ACCSC is committed to the important role of ensuring the integrity of educational programs as a means of serving the public interest and public accountability and serves an essential role in institutional and programmatic quality assurance as a critical component of the regulatory “triad” in partnership with federal and state governments that are responsible for the oversight of higher education institutions.

Every five years, educational institutions are required to go through the accreditation process, which is a year-long process that includes a self-evaluation of the entire school completed by members of the school’s administration and is verified by a team of evaluators from the ACCSC, which provides an opportunity for discussion with school officials, faculty, staff, students, and other relevant individuals.

Upon completion of the on-site review, the ACCSC provides the accredited institution with a Team Summary Report, which summarizes the school’s compliance with accrediting standards. Upon review of the Team Summary Report, the educational institution then has the opportunity to respond to the report with information that demonstrates the school’s compliance with accrediting standards.

The on-site peer review took place in late June. Upon completion of the review, PMI received some great positive feedback, some of which included the following:

- A key characteristic of PMI is the low student-instructor ratio
- At PMI, there is a very high level of student satisfaction
- 100% of the students surveyed felt good about their decision to attend PMI
- 100% of the students surveyed would recommend PMI to a friend
- The school has ample room for growth

The reaccreditation process is estimated to be complete by November 2015.

**PA Gunsmith School Donates Equipment to PMI**

In May, Director Jim Shore, Director of Admissions Doug Nelson, and former PMI CNC student Jacob Grove visited the Pennsylvania Gunsmith School in Pittsburgh, PA. They spoke with Director Bob Thacker and took a tour of the school’s facility, which has been in operation since 1949.

Discussions took place regarding starting an articulation between the schools. Bob had two clamping lathes that didn’t work, and wanted to donate them to PMI for the Mechatronics Technology students to work on.

Once the equipment was delivered, Mechatronics Technology students have taken the lathes apart and are now in the process of rebuilding them. Once rebuilt, the lathes will be used for the CNC Machinist program.

PMI would like to thank the PA Gunsmith School for their generous donation.

**STUDENTS LEARN FIRST-HAND About Career Opportunities at Ellwood National Crankshaft**

On June 9, PMI’s CNC Machinist and Mechatronics Technology students had the opportunity to tour Ellwood National Crankshaft in Irvine, PA, a subsidiary company of Ellwood Group, Inc. Founded in 1910 by the Evans family, Ellwood National Crankshaft is a leading manufacturer of new and reconditioned crankshafts for engines ranging in 800-6,000 horsepower.

The tour kicked off at the conference room to tour the facility and learn about the various jobs and duties at Ellwood National Crankshaft. The tour put in to perspective the size of the company and the products. During the tour, students saw first-hand the forging and machining processes of the crankshafts.

PMI would like to thank Mr. Renwick, Mr. Decker, and Mr. Harvey for donating their time to educate the students and faculty on job opportunities at Ellwood National Crankshaft as well as thank Jason Hall, Human Resources Manager, for coordinating the tour.

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Stay Connected with PMI!**

For the latest news and information on Precision Manufacturing Institute, make sure to “Like” us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter (@PMISchool).
Congratulations Graduates!

PMI recently celebrated the graduation of 14 students. Each program was honored by faculty, staff, family and friends during ceremonies held at PMI’s campus.

April 29, 2015:
CNC Operator:
Joshua M. Ludwick

April 30, 2015:
Electric Arc Welding:
Taylor J. Dart
Ian M. Haux
Joseph R. Roose
Corey A. Stainbrook

July 2, 2015:
CNC Machinist:
Eric Bonanno
Mark Darby
Jake Grove
Brian Ives
Eric Kinter
Travis Schwab

Mechatronics Technology:
David Bish, Jr.
Garrett Dennis

Electric Arc Welding:
Aaron Franz

GRADUATE AWARDS:

Ace Award:
Cumulative 4.0 GPA through April 30, 2015

Electric Arc Welding:
Taylor J. Dart
Joseph R. Roose
Corey A. Stainbrook

Cumulative 4.0 GPA through July 2, 2015

CNC Machinist:
Mark J. Darby

Electric Arc Welding:
Aaron Franz

Perfect Attendance:
For the term April 10, 2015 through April 30, 2015

Electric Arc Welding:
Taylor J. Dart
Joseph R. Roose

For the term April 13, 2015 through July 2, 2015

CNC Machinist:
Eric Bonanno
Mark Darby
Jacob Grove

Mechatronics Technology:
David Bish, Jr.
Garrett Dennis

Instructor’s Choice:
Cumulative attendance through July 2, 2015

CNC Machinist:
Eric A. Bonanno

Mechatronics Technology:
David Bish, Jr.
Garrett Dennis

Extra Effort Award:
Awarded to students who have gone the extra mile in class (chosen by their instructor)

CNC Machinist:
Mark Darby
Eric Bonanno

PMI Performance Awards:

Academic
(Performance Award) Cumulative 3.75 GPA or higher

Ian M. Haux (Electric Arc Welding)
Joseph R. Roose (Electric Arc Welding)
Corey A. Stainbrook (Electric Arc Welding)
Aaron Franz (Electric Arc Welding)

Attendance
(Performance Award) 97% attendance or higher

Eric Bonanno (CNC Machinist)
Corey A. Stainbrook (Electric Arc Welding)
Aaron Franz (Electric Arc Welding)

Work Habits
(Performance Award)
Exhibiting high standards for Professional Image, Classroom Attitude and Motivation, Group Interaction, and Punctuality

Eric Bonanno (CNC Machinist)
Brian Ives (CNC Machinist)

PMI Performance Award
Achieved requirements for all three criteria: Academics, Attendance, and Work Habits

Mark Darby (CNC Machinist)
Jacob Grove (CNC Machinist)
Taylor J. Dart (Electric Arc Welding)
Garrett Dennis (Mechatronics Technology)
David Bish, Jr. (Mechatronics Technology)
Tom Crane knew he wanted to get into a machining career. Shortly after graduating high school, Tom began working at a local machining company as a CNC Operator. After working for the company for six years, Tom was unfortunate to be part of a group of workers who were laid off from the company. He did not let this discourage him.

Prior to his CNC Operator job, Tom had no post-secondary training in the machining field. He decided to seize the opportunity and enrolled in PMI's CNC Machinist program after hearing about the quality program through local advertisements.

Tom started at PMI in January 2014. He noted that while at PMI, his favorite class was the CNC Setups and Operations class with Jim Grosset because it was very hands-on.

"During the class, we were learning on the machines and were making actual parts," said Tom.

Shortly before graduation, Tom began working more closely with PMI’s Career Placement department to develop his resume and schedule interviews with employers. The extra effort paid off and PMI’s Career Placement department to develop his resume and schedule interviews with employers. The extra effort paid off and allowed for him to remain in the machining field. He encourages current PMI students to pay attention and listen to instructors as well as take in as much information as they can in class.

"Every day is different. Some days we have large jobs that require a team of welders to work on that can take several days, weeks, or even months. Other days might be a little bit slower," said Stephen.

"Welding is such an important part of the manufacturing industry the rest of my life."

Stephen Matava enrolled in PMI’s electric arc welding program back in 2014, he was looking for a career change. For a couple of years he had been working at Presque Isle Downs Casino in Erie, PA, but was interested in going back to school to pursue a trade. Through a previous job working as a grader/foreman at a shop in Zelienople, Stephen had some basic welding experience, which triggered an interest in returning to the trade. He toured a couple of schools in the Erie area, but it wasn’t until he visited PMI that we was sold on the program.

"PMI has a very impressive facility and I loved that the welding program was only 22 weeks long. After speaking with Instructor John Adams during my tour, I was immediately sold on the school. He is very knowledgeable about the field and I knew I wanted to learn from him," said Stephen.

After graduating, Stephen was offered a job as a TIG fabricator position and was offered the job.

"Every day is different. Some days we have large jobs that require a team of welders to work on that can take several days, weeks, or even months. Other days might be a little bit slower," said Stephen. "Welding is such an important part of my day, but it’s such a small part of it. There are so many other components involved, such as reading blueprints and making sure that all the parts fit together before we weld them."

"My training at PMI definitely prepared me for this job. Mr. Adams actually had us building a couple of things in class that required extensive planning phases. To this day, Stephen is enjoying his new position and would recommend the welding field to anyone."

"I love welding and would definitely recommend the field to anyone who wants to work hard and get their hands dirty. Individuals entering the field have to realize that you’re not going to start off making six figures coming out of school. If you show up and work hard you can move up pretty quickly and reach new levels in your career."

"I can see myself working in the manufacturing industry the rest of my life."

Stephen’s future plans are to start his own business. He is even considering coming back to PMI for an additional program.
MEET Dylan Weitzel

Welding student Dylan Weitzel has a passion for automotive mechanics. After graduating high school in 2011, he attended a technical school for high performance racing mechanics. Dylan completed the program, but quickly realized that this wasn’t the right career path for him.

Dylan began working a pipeline job in spring of 2014, which required a lot of welding. He always had an interest for welding, but became more fascinated by it through the work he was doing on the pipeline.

Working on the pipelines required a great deal of traveling and a lot of time spent away from home; with a young child at home, Dylan realized that he could not do this job for long. Still interested in the facets of welding, he decided to go back to school to further his education.

Dylan began the electric arc welding program in May 2015. Since starting, he has been very pleased with the hands-on training program, particularly the small class sizes and the instructors.

After graduating in October, Dylan hopes to combine his new welding training with his passion for auto mechanics and find work at an auto repair shop.

MECHATRONICS: Education to Build the Future of Robotics

Today’s news headlines talk a lot about robotics and its place in the future of society, specifically in the medical field. Despite the myth “robotics will replace jobs”, the truth of the matter is that trained technicians are needed to build and repair these computerized “creatures”.

Mechatronics Technology student Joe Gleghorn realizes the opportunities available in the industry, which triggered his interest in pursuing an education geared towards robotics. A New Castle native, Joe was familiar with PMI’s program offerings because his older brother, Jacob, recently graduated from the Electric Arc Welding program.

Since starting in July, Joe is enjoying his experience and his decision to pursue mechatronics training.

Joe’s future goal is to find work in the biomedical field and focus on prosthetics. He would like to find a job that takes him around the world doing what he loves.

It’s all in the FAMILY

Brandon Scarborough comes from a machining family. Throughout the years, members of his family have worked for Woodings Industrial Corporation in Mars, PA. Brandon knew that he wanted to pursue a career in machining, but decided to take an alternative path to get there. After graduating from Moniteau High School in 2010, Brandon spent four years serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in the infantry unit. He was deployed twice during his time with the Marines; his first time landing him in Afghanistan for seven months and his second deployment being spent with the 22nd Military Expeditionary Unit (22nd MEU).

It wasn’t until January 2015 that Brandon enrolled in PMI’s CNC Machinist program. Since starting, Brandon has enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the training, especially what he has experienced in the CNC Set Up & Operation class.

Upon graduating in October, Brandon will be looking to secure a job at Woodings Industrial with his family members. His future goals include helping his dad begin a machine tool repair business.

The NWPA NTMA awarded nearly $12,000 in scholarships this year. Shawn was one of 10 Northwest Pennsylvania students to receive a scholarship award.

Congratulations to CNC Machinist student Shawn Leonhart for receiving two scholarships through the NWPA NTMA Education Foundation. Shawn was awarded $1,000 from the Gary M. Slezak Memorial Scholarship and $500 from the Starlite Group Scholarship.

Shawn and the rest of the scholarship recipients were awarded their scholarship certificates on July 16, 2015 at The Country Club of Meadville.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!
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Many local employers and businesses actively work with PMI in several ways, which include participating in advisory board meetings, and attending special functions held at the school.

One company in particular that PMI has a strong relationship with is Acutec Precision Machining, Inc. Acutec serves two major markets—aerospace and power generation, and is one of the largest independent machined parts and sub-assembly suppliers in the world for these two markets. This is done from the company’s three manufacturing and assembly locations; Meadville and Saegertown PA., and St. Stephen, SC. Since its inception, Acutec has been committed to developing employees, allowing them to run the latest and greatest technology. In addition, management allows and expects its employees to run his/her area as if it was his/her own business. Acutec is constantly working on ways to improve and serve its customers better.

Elisabeth Smith, President of Acutec, graciously took the time to speak with Student Services Coordinator Sara Gehr to share some information on why Acutec values its partnership with PMI.

Why do you continue to partner with PMI?

ES: Acutec has had a lot of success with hiring employees from Precision Manufacturing Institute. We recognize the educational opportunities available. In addition, people who are transitioning from other career fields/areas who attend PMI demonstrate qualities that are desired and expressed by those truly interested in the manufacturing field—aptitude, interest and ability.

In your opinion, how does PMI aid the local, regional, and national economies?

ES: To grow and to serve our industries, we need access to capital, technology and a local skilled workforce. PMI’s location and commitment to educating students in being able to learn new technology is essential to our growth.

What skills and credentials do you look for in an applicant? Do you feel PMI’s training programs prepare students for jobs you are hiring for?

ES: When interviewing potential candidates, we look for a number of skills, which include programming knowledge, utilizing tools (micrometers, calipers, etc.), understanding GD&T, commitment to quality and workmanship, persistence, mechanical ability, and problem solving. In addition, a proper education from a trade school, such as PMI, attendance, and pertinent work experience are very important factors considered. Acutec uses Work Keys to assist in profiling a good machinist. Acutec has had much success in finding employees through PMI.

It is said that there is a shortage and a skills gap in our economy. Do you feel this is true?

ES: Yes, but Acutec is aggressively working to fill that gap. There is a real need for development for future employees. One advantage Acutec has is location, since our headquarters are located in the “Tool City.” Throughout the years, the manufacturing industry has been evolving and has become more complex. I would encourage students entering post-secondary education to consider pursuing a career in the manufacturing industry.

Q&A with Industry Partner
Acutec Precision Machining, Inc.
Admissions Department Welcomes PHIL TERRILL to Staff

In July, PMI welcomed Phil Terrill as the new Admissions Representative. A former technician, Phil is excited to share his experiences through his new role at the school.

His educational background started when he received an Associates degree in Computer Engineering Technology at National Education Center, Tampa Technical Institute in Tampa, Florida. He also earned an Associate’s degree in Avionics Systems Technology at the Community College of the Air Force in Maxwell, Alabama. A

Meet MATT CROUCH

PMI is pleased to welcome Matt Crouch as the new Industry Training Manager. Matt brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position.

After earning an Associate’s Degree in Maintenance Electricity and Construction Technology, Matt has spent over 15 years working as a maintenance technician. For the last 10 years, he was working as a maintenance coordinator for McInnes Rolled Rings in Erie, PA.

Throughout his professional career, Matt has completed a number of professional development certificate programs, some of these including Certificate of Electrical Technology from Northwest Pennsylvania Technical Institute; Certificate for a Certified Professional Supervisor from the Manufacturers’ Association; Certificate of Completion of training in LEAN 203 – SS/Workplace Organization from the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, Inc.; Certificate of Completion of training in Understanding & Troubleshooting Hydraulics from American Trainco; as well as multiple certificates in RLogix 5000.

Matt began working at PMI in early June, after coming across the position through an internet search. Since starting, he has been enjoying his new position.

“I really like the people I work with here as well as meeting new people and making new relationships with businesses in the area. I like that in this area the employers care about their employees and are looking to send them for further training, which doesn’t seem to be the case in other areas,” said Matt.

In his new position, Matt hopes to help expand PMI’s industry training programs in the area and to continue to build the school’s reputation for being a quality training facility.

Outside of work, Matt enjoys skateboarding as well as working on small engineering projects in his garage. Matt is also a Volkswagen fanatic, and recently built an electric VW Bug.

A Millcreek, PA native, Matt currently resides in Crainsville, PA with his wife, Naemi, and his two children, Isaiah (2) and Havilha (8).

If you are a company interested in speaking with Matt about PMI’s Industry Training Programs, please call (855) PMI-8787.

Welcome JENNIFER MUSONE

Jennifer Musone recently joined PMI’s admissions team as an Educational Recruiter. Jennifer received a degree in Special Education from Edinboro University of PA and started her career directing day programs for physically and mentally handicapped individuals. She then spent over 10 years working in executive roles within assisted living centers.

Jennifer is excited to utilize her customer service and leadership skills in a new capacity recruiting potential students to PMI.

“I’m excited to be able to network with the community as well as speak to high school students about post-secondary education options in specialized career training,” she said. “I want to be able to make a difference in the students’ lives and help PMI grow.”

Some of Jennifer’s favorite pastimes include singing, gardening, reading motivational books, and spending time with her family.

Originally from Colorado Springs, CO, marriage brought her to northwest PA. For 21 years, Jennifer and her husband, Andy, have lived in Conneautville, PA with their three kids, Cody (20), Gianna (7), and Jillian (6).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH at the Crawford County Fair

The 70th Annual Crawford County Fair took place August 22-29 and representatives from PMI were there to meet with those who attended the fair. One of the robotic hands was on present for a live display. A special thank you to our Mechatronics students for helping set up and program the robotic arm display!

Thank you to all who came and visited our booth!
When considering options for paying for school, most students take advantage of filing the FAFSA – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. By filing the FAFSA, PMI can determine if a student is eligible for two types of funding: Direct Loans and the federal Pell Grant, which may cover a large portion of a student’s tuition costs.

Direct Loans are provided through the federal government and include such benefits as fixed interest rates and a variety of options for repayment plans.

The federal Pell Grant is a gift aid that doesn’t have to be paid back, based on need and eligibility.

Filing the FAFSA also enables a student to apply for the PHEAA PA-TIP Grant. This is a special programs grant for Pennsylvania residents in Targeted Industry Programs. Students from the CNC Machinist, Mechatronics Technology, and Electric Arc Welding programs may apply for this grant.

While the names are long and the details may seem confusing, PMI will assist each student in filing the FAFSA and PA-TIP Grant application and determine how these sources of funding can help him or her pay for school. For more information about the FAFSA and federal funding, check out studentaid.gov or contact the Financial Aid office at PMI.

On June 17 and 18, PMI took part in this summer's STEM Camp, a program organized by the Crawford County Career Education Alliance for 7th and 8th grade students interested in learning about career opportunities available in STEM-related programs. This year a total of 21 students from Crawford Central, Conneaut, and Penncrest School Districts participated in the two-day program.

In addition to PMI, Laurel Technical Institute, Allegheny College, and Edinboro University hosted sessions at their facilities.

During PMI’s session, students toured the school, received an introduction to robotics by Industry Training Manager Matt Crouch, and learned about robot safety from Mechatronics Instructor Jeff Wood. Following the Robotics session, the students were then split into two groups. The first group went with Jeff and worked with the robotic arms found in the Mechatronics lab.

The second group, led by Marketing Assistant Amanda Ivanick, was split into teams and each given an engineering box of everyday items for them to build a catapult. At the conclusion of each session, the groups switched activities.

"The students were eager to learn and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to operate the robots," said Instructor Jeff Wood.

Camp organizer Eileen Mullen was very pleased with this year’s STEM Camp.

"This camp offers an opportunity for students to experience the different post-secondary pathways they can take and helps them to choose what the best path is for them. The hands-on opportunities for the students are always the most effective because they learn while they’re having fun,” she said.

2015 STEM Camp Teaches Students about CAREERS IN ROBOTICS