

PMI PARTNERS WITH LOCAL STATE UNIVERSITIES



Throughout the years, PMI students have had the opportunity to grow their career paths through educational partnerships developed between PMI and local state universities, such as Venango College of Clarion University and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The dual programs aim to offer students the opportunity to earn an associate degree at an accredited state university.

Since 2008, PMI and Venango College of Clarion University, located in Oil City, PA, have teamed up to provide students with a superior educational track needed to earn an Associate of Applied Science and Industrial Technology (AAS-IT) degree with Clarion University.

As part of the program, students take technical education courses at PMI, with the ability to transfer between 27 and 30 credits toward their degree at Clarion University. The program provides flexibility for the students participating in the program by allowing them to obtain their technical training before, during or after enrollment at Venango College.

Currently, one student is participating in the dual program at Venango College and two additional students will begin the program in July.

In addition to Venango College, PMI has worked with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania for eight years. As part of the program, students can transfer credits from PMI to Edinboro that can be applied towards an Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied Technology.

In a recent visit to PMI to recruit students for the dual program, **Dr. Nathan Richey**, Dean of Edinboro's College of Science & Health explained the benefits of the PMI/Edinboro

partnership to students who attended the presentation.

Peter Kuvshnikov, Assistant Professor of Manufacturing and Engineering Technology at Edinboro, emphasized the importance and benefits of an associate degree in relation to career development.

Doug Kuhn, former PMI student, who received his associate degree through the PMI/Edinboro dual program, was guest speaker at the presentation. Kuhn shared his story with the students about his education path and how it has benefited him at his family-owned business, Kuhn Tool & Die Co.

Credits from PMI and Edinboro are transferable in the following fields: CNC Machinist, Electric Arc Welding and Mechatronics Technology programs.

The combination of PMI's hands-on technical training and the

Universities' classroom coursework allows students to excel in the manufacturing industry and prepare them for careers in positions such as team-leader, foreman or superintendent in the manufacturing or welding industries.



For more information about dual programs with Venango College of Clarion University and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, contact:

Doug Nelson at dnelson@pmionline.edu



PMI Sponsors 9th Annual NWPA-NTMA RoboBOTS

On April 5, students from Northwest PA gathered at Meadville Area Senior High School to battle their “bots off!” at the 9th Annual NWPA-NTMA RoboBOTS. PMI was proud to serve as one of the sponsors of the event and interact with future leaders of the manufacturing industry.

Established in 2006, RoboBOTS is an annual event put on by the Northwest Pennsylvania National Tooling and Machining Association (NWPA-NTMA) that has grown in popularity throughout the years. This year’s event included 43 teams made up of students from 21 middle and high schools throughout the area.

The RoboBOTS competition is an educational experience designed for students with an interest in robotics to put their hand-made, remote controlled robots to the test. Building robots gives students the chance to use their imaginations and come up with a design all while incorporating useful knowledge of math, science, engineering and manufacturing to make their design come to life.

Through the completion of this hands-on effort, students get a sense of satisfaction by having a tangible object to show off and compete with.

After approximately 80 rounds of competition, trophies were awarded to the following teams:

- ★ First Place and King of the Ring - Cochran High School, bot “Earthshaker”
- ★ Second Place - Cochran High School, bot “Falken”
- ★ Third Place and Best Sportsmanship - Saegertown High School, bot “Black Widow”
- ★ Best Engineered - Meadville High School, “Threshers Revenge”
- ★ Cooliest Bot – General McLane, bot “John Gusik”
- ★ Best Documentation - Cochran Junior/Senior High School, bot “Earthshaker”

It was a great day of battling bots, and although not everyone went home with a trophy, spectators, mentors and students went home with a greater understanding of what RoboBOTS is all about!

For more information on the NWPA-NTMA RoboBOTS competition, visit <http://www.nwpa-ntma.com>

PMI GOES GREEN WITH NEW SCHOOL JEEP

PMI’s new addition, a 2008 Jeep Commander, made its debut in Meadville March 15th at the 27th Jack Curtain St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The jeep followed the parade route from Diamond Park to the Downtown Mall and was seen by thousands of members of the local community.

Since the parade, the jeep and the PMI staff have been busy traveling all over Crawford County and Northwestern Pennsylvania, visiting the next generation of manufacturers. Some of the jeep’s recent destinations include high schools, career fairs, and community events, such as: Venango Tech Center, Crawford County Career and Technical Center and National Tooling and Machining Association’s (NTMA) RoboBOTS competition held at Meadville Area High School.



Where in PA is the PMI Jeep?

If you spot the PMI jeep out in the community, take a picture and post it to our Facebook page. Each month a winner at random will be chosen to receive a prize. The contest is free and open to the public, so keep your eyes peeled!

Mechatronics Technology Students LEND A HELPING HAND



Pictured L-R: Phil Nagy, Jason Fitzgerald, Dylan Mosher and Tyler Schwab.

PMI's Mechatronics Technology students recently got some real-life experience while helping their fellow students in the process. With the Welding program continuing to grow, booth space in the lab is extremely valuable. It was decided that the addition of two more welding booths would be needed to help meet the needs of the expansion.

To get started, the Mechatronics Technology students were called on to offer their expertise on the matter. They first reviewed the power requirements, did several calculations, and decided there was enough power available to handle the additional welding booths. Next, they gathered supplies, determined a plan of action, and got to work.

The students got hands-on experience with proper lock-out and tag-out procedures while also learning how to bend conduit and the calculations required to do so.

Wire sizing and power calculations were also conducted to ensure the voltage was correct. Finally, conduit was run and new receptacles were installed for the new welding booths. A job well done by Mechatronics students: **Jason Fitzgerald, Dylan Mosher, Phil Nagy and Tyler Schwab.**

MEET PMI's Industry Training Manager DENNY COXSON

Denny Coxson was recently selected to be PMI's new Industry Training Manager as well as the Certified Production Technician (CPT) Instructor. One of Denny's first duties is to work with local industry companies to customize training programs that meet their specific needs. PMI has a daytime course schedule through January 2015 prepared for companies that would like their employees to be trained in individual courses.

Denny is one of ten certified instructors in the state of Pennsylvania.

PMI is currently running a CPT class through the MSSC and has a new class starting May 12th. The 24-week class will run Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact

Denny Coxson at
dcoxson@pmionline.edu
or call (814) 333-2415.



POSTAL PROJECT

UPDATE



CNC Machinist students **Tyler Wendel** and **Cody Mosier** helped design and create these new improved roller mechanisms for the Meadville Post Office.

In the last issue of "Shop Talk," we explained that the current mechanisms used at the post office were ceramic and fragile. These mechanisms consist of a roller and water holder that is used to moisten the glue on stamps and envelopes. Great job Tyler and Cody!

PMI GRAD TAKES CAREER TO NEXT LEVEL WITH CNC TRAINING



Bryan Cramer has over 17 years of customer service experience, but when a Meadville manufacturer hired him in 2000, he was introduced to a whole new challenge. After working at the company for three months, Cramer decided to enroll at PMI to further his training and expand his knowledge on CNC equipment.

For the past five and a half years, Cramer has worked at MSC Industrial Supply Co. and is currently a Metalworking Account Executive. His job at MSC involves daily tasks, such as visiting customers, learning their challenges and helping to create solutions for manufacturers. His job requires him to keep up with the latest trends in technology, tools and software. Cramer enjoys working at MSC because of the diversity and challenges that come with helping people solve problems.

Looking back on his education, Cramer says, *“The training I received at PMI is invaluable. I would have been lost without it.”*

Prior to attending PMI, Cramer received a Bachelor of Science degree from Gannon University in biology and education. Upon graduating from Gannon, the United States Army Veteran worked in the medical field for several years.

Cramer currently serves as a PMI advisory board member for both the CNC and Mechatronics Technology programs.

The LEWIS BICKEL JR. Success Story



PMI graduate **Lewis Bickel Jr.** has been around welding his entire life. Unsure of furthering his education directly after high school, Bickel decided to work in a lumber mill.

He contemplated going to school for welding for some time. Nearly ten years later, Bickel decided to enroll at PMI. Bickel’s dad, **Lewis Bickel Sr.**, is a welder and was a big influence on his son’s decision to enroll at PMI for welding.

In November 2012, Bickel graduated from PMI and was hired by Excalibur. He enjoys his career at Excalibur which is comprised of flux-core welding projects. Bickel stated that he is definitely benefiting from his training at PMI.

In a recent interview, Bickel said he enjoyed his PMI experience mostly because of his instructor, **John Adams**.

“John is very knowledgeable and enjoys teaching, which made for an enjoyable school experience,” said Bickel.

Looking back on his education, Bickel said, *“I wish I would’ve come to PMI a lot sooner.”*

PMI GRAD CONVERTS PASSION INTO UNDERWATER ADVENTURE

Recent graduate **Kyle Petty** came to PMI looking for a change. After high school, Petty went off to college at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Upon completing one year at Pitt Johnstown, he realized that a traditional four year program wasn’t the right fit for him. He then moved back home to Greenville, PA and shortly thereafter enrolled in PMI’s welding program.

Petty enjoys many outdoor activities – one activity in particular includes scuba diving. He has several scuba diving certificates and plans to take more advanced scuba classes to earn additional certificates.

Petty is most interested in underwater welding, as he can combine his passion for scuba diving with his PMI training. He plans to continue his education in Florida to obtain additional certifications in the underwater welding field.

Petty says his favorite thing about PMI was working with instructor, **John Adams**. While attending PMI, Petty worked at a local fly-fishing shop as a clerk and also helped out with the shop’s youth summer camps.

In addition to scuba diving, Petty enjoys outdoor activities, such as fishing, hunting and snow skiing. His favorite places to ski are Holiday Valley and Peek ‘n Peak.





GRADS HONORED WITH PMI PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The PMI Performance Awards are awarded to graduates who demonstrate quality performance in categories, such as academics, work ethics and attendance.

To receive the **Academics Award**, a student must have received a GPA of 3.75 or higher. The **Work Ethics Award** is presented to students who have gone above and beyond in the areas of personal image, classroom attitude and motivation, group interaction, and punctuality.

To receive the **Attendance Award**, students must maintain an attendance record of 97% or higher with no unexcused absences. Students who earn all three of the above awards, receive the **PMI Performance Award**. The **PMI Ace Award** is given to students who have a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Nine students received awards at January's graduation.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cody Mosier | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS, ACE |
| Jen Spangler | ACADEMICS |
| Jim Stucke | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS |
| Tyler Wendel | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS, ACE |
| Randy Drake | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS |
| Mike McAdoo | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS |
| Brenton Ruhlman | ACADEMICS, WORK ETHICS, ACE |
| Adrienne Pratt | PERFECT ATTENDANCE, ACE |
| Chris Dunkle | WORK ETHICS |

Just HIRED!

PMI graduates continue to secure employment in areas like Electric Arc Welding and CNC Machinist. The following students have accepted employment with the subsequent companies:

CNC Machinist:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Jim Stucke | SMS Millcraft |
| Jennifer Spangler | Acutec Precision Machining, Inc. |
| Artem Shchur | Windsor Beach Technologies, Inc. |
| Tommy Amos | Starn Tool and Manufacturing Co. |
| Chris Dunkle | Starn Tool and Manufacturing Co. |
| Tyler Wendel | Quala-Die Inc. |
| Cody Mosier | Quala-Die Inc. |

Welding:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mike McAdoo | Cemex |
| Adrienne Pratt | Donjon Marine Company, Inc. |

Congratulations GRADS Class of January 2014

PMI celebrated the graduation of eleven students on January 17, 2014 at the Economic Progress Alliance Conference Center in Meadville, PA. Family and friends gathered to share in the special night for the graduates.

PMI is proud to recognize **Adrienne Pratt**, the first female in school history to graduate from the Electric Arc Welding diploma program. While at PMI, she obtained a 4.0 and had perfect attendance.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the graduates!

CNC Machinist

Mike Amos
Chris Dunkle
Cody Mosier
Artem Shchur
Jen Spangler
Jim Stucke
Tyler Wendel



Electric Arc Welding

Randy Drake
Mike McAdoo
Adrienne Pratt
Brenton Ruhlman



New Beginnings for TYLER SCHWAB



Mechatronics Technology student **Tyler Schwab** is no stranger to hard work. He has been with Charter Plastics in Titusville for three years and continues to work there while attending PMI.

In high school, he spent his summers working in maintenance. The gratification that he got from the work inspired Tyler to study Mechatronics at PMI. His favorite thing about PMI is the fact that his schedule allows him to work while he's in school.

An avid outdoorsman, Tyler enjoys fishing, hunting and trapping in his free time. He is also a skilled musician who can play the guitar, mandolin, bass and piano.

April was an exciting month for Tyler. Not only did he graduate, but he also got married.

FORMER MEMBER OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ENROLLS AT PMI



Jason Barickman started in PMI's welding program at the beginning of 2014. Barickman had some previous experience in welding and enjoyed it, which led to his decision to enroll at PMI.

For six years, Jason served in the Army National Guard where he helped with hurricane Katrina relief in 2005.

Jason is married with two children. In his spare time, he likes to hunt, fish and watch the Pittsburgh Steelers and Penguins.

He will graduate in June and is thinking about becoming an underwater welder. Meanwhile, he is looking forward to working locally, with a company in Meadville.

MEET Kurt Perotti



Last year, CNC student **Kurt Perotti** moved to Erie from Indiana, PA to be closer to his family. After graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science, Kurt was having a difficult time finding a satisfying career in his field. His brother, on the other hand, was having more success

as a CNC machinist and decided it might be a time to change ca-

reer paths. The trades intrigued him and after doing some research, he found PMI to be the best school to prepare him for the field. He enrolled in the September 2013 class and will graduate this coming May.

Kurt says his favorite thing about PMI is the small class size because it makes the instructors more accessible. After he graduates, Kurt plans to pursue a career with Lord Corporation or Fmc Technologies as a machinist. In addition to attending PMI, Kurt works part-time for Express Tire. In his free time, Kurt is an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, and he enjoys spending time with his wife, Kaylin, and playing with his dogs.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

January 20, 2014 Starts:

Welding:

Kaitlyn Kerr
Lane Kenyon
Mike Steider
Vitaly Meyer
Christian Robey
Robert Winger

Mechatronics:

John Moran
John Peters
Greg Kiser
Dean Koseff

CNC Machinist:

Tim Tustin
Tom Craine
David Foley
Juan Moore
Matt Glass (*Clarion Venango Partnership student*)

April 14, 2014 Starts:

Welding:

James Beil
Tim Jewell
Marcus Marshall
Stephen Matava
Bronson Yanc

Mechatronics:

Al Kolan
Phil Terrill
Lynn Walker, II
Rick Waters

CNC Machinist:

Mark Baucan
Nate Beers
William Bishop
Phil Jackson, Jr.
Michael Patterson



Welcome CHRIS MANLEY

Chris Manley was recently hired as an Admissions Representative.

Chris has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Special Education, both from Mercyhurst University. He spent nine years working for a non-profit company in the accounting field and he spent the last two years substitute teaching.

Chris resides in Edinboro and has two children. In his free time, he enjoys swimming, biking and being outdoors, but his favorite summer activity is going to the beach. Chris' favorite beach to visit is Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Chris said he wanted to work at PMI ***"to help others better themselves and improve their lives in the technical field."***

Welcome aboard Chris!

Meet JANET TAYLOR

Janet Taylor joined PMI's staff at the beginning of January as Placement Coordinator. Janet is a PMI graduate and has over 25 years of sales and customer service experience in the telecommunications field.



Prior to PMI, Janet has worked at Experience Works, Inc., helping the unemployed and underemployed with training, education and job development. A Meadville native, she wanted to work at PMI because she is passionate about helping others.

As Placement Coordinator, Janet will help students with resume and interview training, as well as prepare them for their new job. ***"My primary goal is to work diligently with employers to secure employment for our students and grads,"*** said Janet.

Janet is married and has a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel named MeMe. In her free time, she enjoys boating, golfing, cooking and volunteering. Outside of PMI, Janet has served on the advisory board for the Meadville Salvation Army for 17 years and is serving her fourth year on the board of directors for the United Way.

Welcome to the PMI Team!

Meet JODI LINDSEY



In late January, **Jodi Lindsey** was brought on as PMI's receptionist.

Jodi attended the Shenango Valley School of Business, where she received an Associate degree in Secretarial Science.

For the past 22 years, she worked at a local doctor's office. Jodi wanted to work at PMI because she enjoys secretarial work, but wanted to try something outside of the medical field.

Jodi has been married to her husband Brian for 20 years and they have two children.

In her free time, Jodi enjoys spending time with her children, cooking and theatre. She recently saw her favorite musical *Wicked* for the second time in Pittsburgh.

Welcome, Jodi!

Welcome Back LARRY KNAPP

Returning to PMI is CNC Instructor **Larry Knapp**. Larry has 44 years of machining experience, including 36 years as a machinist and six years as an instructor.



Larry brings a wealth of knowledge to the classroom. It was after he graduated from PMI in 2007, that he decided he wanted to give back to the trade on a full-time basis. Larry enjoyed sharing his knowledge and experience with PMI students in the past and is happy to rejoin the team.

Larry resides in Erie, PA and in his free time, he enjoys canoeing, working on cars, riding motorcycles, ATVs and dirt bikes.

Welcome back, Larry!



Precision Manufacturing Institute

764 Bessemer Street, Suite 105
Meadville, PA 16335

www.GoPMI.org
855-PMI-8787

“Like” PMI on



PMI is an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution and Employer, and an ACCSC Accredited Institution.

NWPA NTMA HOLDS CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT

In late April, members of PMI attended the Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NWPA NTMA) Chairman's Night at The Country Club in Meadville. The theme for the evening was *“Re-Tooling Precision Manufacturing & Sharpening Your Sales Strategies.”*

NTMA is a national representative of the custom precision manufacturing industry in the U.S. and is represented by small manufacturing businesses that bring in more than \$40 billion in sales. NWPA is one of the 50 local chapters of NTMA, wherein PMI serves as an active member.

Guest speakers at the event included **Ted Toth**, the 2014 National NTMA Chairman of the Board and owner of Toth Technologies in Pennsauken, NJ; **David Tilstone**, President of the NTMA; and **Ray Mutchler**, executive director at Sandler Training.

During the evening, Ted spoke about a variety of tools and resources available to NTMA members including business opportunities, membership benefits, and workforce developments.

Dave Tilstone spoke about NTMA member opportunities available through The International Special Tooling and Machining Association (ISTMA). Dave explained what a great tool the ISTMA can be to members and how it provides key economic and industry data globally.



Pictured L-R: Ted Toth, National NTMA Chairman of the Board and David Tilstone, President of the NTMA

Ray Mutchler concluded the event by giving insight to his sales technique and the sales expert process.

For more information on NTMA, visit www.ntma.org

For more information on NWPA NTMA, visit www.nwpa-ntma.com