



Why the Society of Manufacturing Engineers? Part II : KNOW



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Renewing the Regional Manufacturing Talent Supply



On November 3rd, the West Michigan Manufacturing Societies United held its third event. Bob Roth, the president of RobMan Manufacturing, talked about

how collaboration is something West Michigan does well. The featured speaker Emily DiRocco, the president of the Manufacturing Institute, stated that WMMSU is the only collaborative she has seen in the country that really does collaboration well. It's indicative to our culture here in West Michigan.



Building a Technical Workforce for Manufacturing Competitiveness

On March 4, 2008, the Manufacturing Institute launched the cornerstone of our answer—the NAM Endorsed

Manufacturing Skills Certification System. By deploying this system of industry-recognized skills certifications through our educational and workforce development systems, we can produce the high performance workforce that is critical to the strength and vitality of our manufacturing economy.

The model, built by manufacturers for manufacturers, is essentially a road map of the skills needed by workers entering and then advancing in careers across the manufacturing economy.

Over the past year, The Manufacturing Institute has worked with key certification partners who are the world market leaders in skills certification programs that align with these four tiers of skill requirements. This collaborative effort resulted in an organization of the certification programs, and the credentials they offer, into a system of "stackable credentials" that can be awarded in post-secondary education. The foundational competencies in the first 3 tiers are grounded in ACC's National Career Readiness Certificate.

[To read the full article, click here](#)

To learn more about the Manufacturing Institute and NAM-endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System, visit <http://institute.nam.org>

[To download the NAM's manufacturing strategy, click here](#)

Ivrea Durcan, Vice Chair

Engineering Ethics

The combination of population growth, industrial competition and technological innovation has led to the construction of some incredible (and some not so incredible) structures. Unfortunately for the general public, many of these structures have one thing in common, the capability to catastrophically fail. This can be quite costly. At the very least, the site will need to be cleaned up, often the structure will need to be replaced. In some cases, people can be hurt or killed, which will more than likely lead to a lawsuit. Depending on the severity of the case, the cost of these matters can total millions of dollars. And who is to foot the bill? There are only a few ways to find out, and in many cases, materials scientists and engineers assess the situation in attempt to determine the cause of failure.

When a structure fails, the failure commonly originates within a specific part. In every case, someone is responsible for that part. Especially when an injury or death results, fingers are pointed in all different directions, often with little or no real supporting evidence. So the case goes to court, where lawyers are hired to represent each side. In turn, the lawyers hire materials engineers. It is the job of the materials engineers to find

the supporting evidence, and thus determine the responsible party.

[To read the full article, click here](#)

Neal Hanka

SME + TU = The Leader in Manufacturing Knowledge



SME to acquire Tooling University to become the unquestioned leader of manufacturing content and delivery.

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Ferris State University's Mfg. Engineering Department's IMTS Trip



MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The Ferris State University (FSU) Manufacturing Engineering Technology Department organized and went on their Bi-Annual trip to the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) in Chicago on September 16th. Buses rolled out of Big Rapids at 6:00 am filled with FSU Manufacturing Engineering Technology students and faculty. In addition 6 high school instructors and 37 of their students participated. Total attendance for the event was 104. The trip was utilized to provide all participants a chance to explore current and emerging technologies and to emphasize the importance of technology in today's fast paced manufacturing environment. A secondary purpose was to expose high school teachers and their students to the FSU Manufacturing programs and to stimulate their interest in manufacturing as a career. Based on the comments about the trip it appears as though it was a successful endeavor.

- "I thought the show was sweet. I really liked all the tooling sections. The new ideas to make tooling more efficient and fast." Jared MacKellar - H.S. Senior Mecosta Oshtemo Career Center
- "The IMTS Show was very impressive with all the technology that was assembled in one place. The six hours was not near enough to look at all the newest and greatest technology from around the world. It was very interesting to see what the top manufactures are using to make today's high tech parts. It was a very informative experience." Ryan Dell - Junior - Manufacturing Engineering Technology

[To read the full article, click here](#)

Joe Wist, SME Ferris State University University Liaison

Systematic process to change the way we run our businesses one operator at a time

SME 038's Lean User Group met on October 22nd at Pridgeon & Clay to discuss systematic processes to change the way organizations run their businesses.

There is a risk of spending money on new employee training. The employee could take the knowledge and quit using that knowledge someplace else. While this is true there is a bigger risk in not training new employees.

By utilizing this certification process, Pridgeon & Clay has had some unexpected positive outcomes:

- 1) It exposes variation in various I&C processes
- 2) Provides an indirect audit of the documentation
- 3) Provides feedback for appraisals
- 4) Creates a desire for training

Ultimate goal: all plants standardized



Next month's meeting will be held on December 3rd, location TBD. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, contact Dale Dulyea at ddulyea@grs-s.com.

Upcoming Events

Lean User Group Meeting - 12.3.10
Christmas Party - December TBD

Complete listing available at sme38.com

Regards,

SME 038 Board

Honnie Knopf - Chair
Tyrea Duncan - Vice Chair
Dave Kwiek - Treasurer
Blake Dothouse - Secretary

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