

Workforce Development

Helping You To Meet Your Workforce Challenges

Training The Next Generation:

CEU Testing at National Technical Conference

In June of 2013, PMPA announced a program to recognize the value of training provided by the association through a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program. Since that time, more than 900 participants have earned continuing education units by attending both national and local meetings, totaling more than 67 hours of available training. This program has given us a chance to recognize the outstanding programming from our association administrators.

PMPA tracks the number of CEUs earned by participants for every CEU-

Eligible event. For every 50 minutes of training offered, 0.1 CEU credit hours is awarded. In order to earn PMPA's Gold "Precision Machining Technologist" credential, 5.0 CEUs would need to be earned. Participation in a typical National Technical Conference would earn an attendee 1.2 CEUs.

Recognizing that it could take more than a few years for a participant to earn the Gold credential, PMPA's Technical Program Committee (TPC) identified a way for member company's employees to earn more point credits toward this

"Gold Level" certification. The TPC developed a test based on six categories (General, Machining, Tooling, GD&T, Material and Safety) aimed at gauging a person's knowledge level within each category. Points for taking the test will be awarded based on the overall score and the scoring within each category. Separating the testing within each of these buckets will allow for feedback to be provided to each person who takes the test.

Investing In Your Team:

NIMS Credentials Issues Hit New Record High in 2014

NIMS issued 18,947 credentials to more than 8,000 individuals in 2014 according to Jim Wall, executive director of NIMS. These credentials show that more students are preparing for success in high-demand, skilled careers like precision machining and other skilled trades.

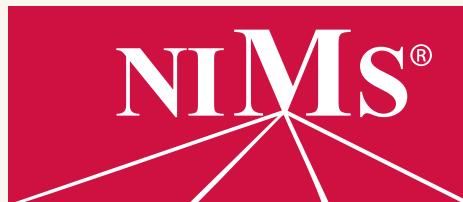
The growth of the precision manufacturing sector is one reason for the increase in students earning credentials. The continued underemployment of college graduates across all majors and the increasing burden of college loan debt to get those degrees are other factors.

Taking NIMS-approved courses to earn skilled trade credentials is a lot less expensive than typical college expenses, which can run from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year with no assurance of a job upon graduation. NIMS credentials are

typically earned at community colleges, where annual tuition can be as low as \$2,400 to \$5,000 per year.

PMPA is a founding member of NIMS, and is pleased to see this success at credentialing talent to enter our high-tech industry. Credentialing real people for in-demand careers, developing standards and credentials, this is how we

can develop an advanced manufacturing workforce to sustain manufacturing in North America. As NIMS continues to upgrade and adapt the standards to our evolving technology, we have confidence that our credentialed new hires will be up to speed and able to safely add value on the first day of the job. And that they will have a great career based on their NIMS accredited skills.



National Institute for Metalworking Skills®