

NATIONAL TOOLING AND MACHINING ASSOCIATION

Press Release



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WHO: Local metalworking apprentice, Walt Gasper
WHAT: **WINS** a spot at the NTMA/NIMS National Apprentice Competition
WHEN: June 9-12, 2010
WHERE: Indianapolis, Indiana

(February 2010 - Pittsburgh) Local metalworking apprentice Walt Gasper is on his way to the prestigious NTMA (National Tooling & Machining Association)/NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) National Apprentice Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana after winning the regional bid in Pittsburgh.

The regional competition, held at New Century Careers Training Innovation Center on Pittsburgh's Southside in January, challenged 3rd and 4th-year metalworking apprentices from area manufacturers. Contestants were judged on a written exam as well as the precision of their machined parts.

The winner, Walt Gasper, was hired as a co-op student at Hamill Manufacturing Company in Trafford, PA at the age of 17 in 2007. That autumn, he entered the NTMA's Apprentice Program. He attended Central Westmoreland CTC for half of the day and worked at Hamill for the other half. One night a week he attended the NTMA program. Upon graduation from high school, Walt received a scholarship to Westmoreland Community College. He is currently a full-time engineering student there, a 4th-year apprentice in the NTMA program and works 30 hours per week at Hamill. He currently holds 10 NIMS credentials.

"From the first day at Hamill, everyone has been impressed with Walt's intelligence, machining skills and work ethic. He's a model employee and we're very proud of him!" said Jeff Kelly, President, Hamill Manufacturing Company.

Walt will now represent the Pittsburgh region at the 38th Annual NTMA/NIMS National Apprentice Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana June 9-12, 2010 where he will compete for prizes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars for his employer, personal prizes and a trip to Switzerland.

***Photos are available upon request.
For more information, please contact: Ed Sikora at (412) 559- 9899.***