

# Taking the Measure of a Manufacturing Training Program

*ITAMCO, an open gearing and precision machining services company in North Central Indiana, has taken a proactive stance against the lack of skilled manufacturing workers. ITAMCO founded a manufacturing training program for high school students that has become a success story for ITAMCO, the community and the students. The following press release outlines ITAMCO's continuing commitment to the program.*

Plymouth, Indiana – ITAMCO (Indiana Technology and Manufacturing Companies) has donated a Zeiss Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM) to the Precision Tool Manufacturing Training Program for high school students. The donation was announced at the 2014 International Technology Manufacturing show in Chicago. The new machine is evidence of ITAMCO's continuing support for the program that Mark Neidig, Purchasing Manager at ITAMCO, proposed to the Plymouth School Corporation superintendent in 2013.

The new machine will be added to the inventory of precision machining tools housed in the ITAMCO Manufacturing Center on the Plymouth High School's campus in North Central Indiana. In addition to ITAMCO's \$100,000 initial donation and ongoing technical assistance, the North Central Area Vocational Cooperative (NCAVC) and Ivy Tech are active contributors. NCAVC contributed funds to purchase equipment and the program's trainer is an Ivy Tech employee. Students receive high school credits and Ivy Tech college credits.

ITAMCO provides open gearing and precision machining services and, like many manufacturers, needs highly skilled employees to operate their technologically advanced CNC equipment. Mr. Neidig said that he initiated the program because the ITAMCO team wants to encourage high school students to enter rewarding careers in manufacturing. "We need to keep the USA at the forefront of innovative manufacturing, but we obviously have selfish motivations as well. We need skilled workers in our own facilities," said Mr. Neidig.

The ITAMCO staff donated a Zeiss DuraMax CMM because it's a world-class machine like the Zeiss CMM machines they use on their own shop floor. The DuraMax replaces the limitations of manual measuring tools with CNC accuracy and flexibility. "Our facility is better equipped than a typical machine shop and we want participants in the training program to be prepared to work on a plant floor like ours," said Mr. Neidig. Zeiss generously discounted the price of the machine, contributed 12 educational licenses for their Calypso software for the DuraMax, and provided training for the manufacturing center's instructor. The Calypso

software enables users to create a measuring plan without programming code or text editing.

After only one year of operation, the training program has success stories. Thirteen students have taken Precision Machining I and four were seniors. Three of these seniors are now working at ITAMCO after graduation and one of the ITAMCO employees is continuing his education at Ivy Tech. The fourth student is also working for a local manufacturer. "The companies were pleased with our students' training because they were prepared to work on the shop floor, said Scott Kaser, the instructor for the Precision Tool Manufacturing Training Program and a certified CNC Machinist with over 25 years experience as a machinist and trainer. "I was just like these kids. I didn't want to go to college but I wanted a good paying job. I like working with them and I enjoy our partnerships with local companies that want to hire them," he added.

## About ITAMCO

Since 1955, ITAMCO has provided open gearing and precision machining services to heavy-duty industries including energy, mining, marine, and aviation. Learn more about ITAMCO at [www.itamco.com](http://www.itamco.com) or call (574) 936-2112. ●



*Students from the Metalworking I class at the Precision Tool Manufacturing Training Program. From left to right: Trevor Roberts, Tanner Virgil, Luke Neidlinger, Blake Carbaugh, AJ Avery and William Penrod.*