



# National Tooling & Machining Association RECORD



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## Stellar Precision Apprentice Takes Top Honors at the 37th Annual NTMA/NIMS National Apprentice Competition



Michael Vucish (right) from Stellar Machine Co. with 1st Place Apprentice Mark Evangelist.



David Emmerich (right), Giddings & Lewis Machine Tools, with 2nd Place Apprentice Josh Geschke.



Robert Anderson (right), Six Sigma, with 3rd Place Apprentice Andy Warren.

The 37th Annual NTMA/NIMS National Apprentice Competition was hosted this year by our NTMA Indiana Chapter and Ivy Tech Community College,

located in Indianapolis, Ind., on April 15-18, 2009.

Eight regional champions from eight states prevailed in their local competition last fall and were able to attend this National event to determine the "Best of the Best" in an intense two-day competition involving projects in lathe, mill, precision grinding and a comprehensive written exam.

It was a very close competition, but after the scores were tallied the First Place

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honors went to Mark Evangelist, sponsored by NTMA member company Stellar Precision Components from our Pittsburgh Chapter. Taking Second Place was Josh Geschke, sponsored by NTMA member company MAG Giddings & Lewis from our Wisconsin General area, and finishing in Third Place was Andrew Warren, sponsored by NTMA member company Six Sigma Inc. from our Kentuckiana Chapter.

For 19 years, GF AgieCharmilles in Lincolnshire, Ill., has generously sponsored the Grand Prize for the National competition. As sponsor of the First Place Champion, Stellar Precision Components will receive the Grand Prize of a 30 percent discount off the purchase price of selected models of EDM or high speed milling machines from GF AgieCharmilles, as well as additional cost savings on tools and accessories. Depending on the package chosen, the total value of the prize could be up to \$100,000.



Swiss Minister, Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Guillaume Scheurer (left) made the award presentation to Mark Evangelist at the Awards Banquet. Joining in the presentation was Harry Moser (right), Chairman of GF AgieCharmilles, sponsor of the contest Grand Prize.

For the third year, the Regional Champions had an additional motivation to excel – a 10-day expense-paid trip to Switzerland for the top three winners, hosted by the Swiss Embassy to the United States. This opportunity is part of a program called “Think Swiss,” involving the Embassy of Switzerland, Swiss Consulates and the Swiss Trade Commission in the U.S. Minister, Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Guillaume Scheurer, made the award presentation at the Awards Banquet.



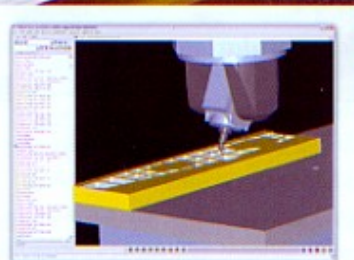
The top three finishers at work during the competition. From left: Andrew Warren, Mark Evangelist, and Josh Geschke.

In addition to participation plaques, trophies and a variety of donated measuring instruments and hand tools, each contestant received a wooden tool chest

from H. Gerstner & Son in Dayton, Ohio, a copy of the “Machinery’s Handbook” 28th Toolbox Edition, the “Metalworking Sink or Swim – Tips and

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The contestants enjoyed a tour of Chip Ganassi Racing.

Tricks for Machinists, Welders and Fabricators,” as well as a replica Collectors’ Edition of the first-Machinery’s Handbook—originally published in January 1914, donated by Industrial Press Inc. in New York, N.Y.

Also, the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) again waived the registration and testing fees as part of their sponsorship for the online exam, “NIMS Machining Level I: Measurement, Materials and Safety” credential, which each Regional Champion had to successfully complete to be eligible to participate in the National competition. NIMS also will provide the sponsoring employer of each contestant a \$100 scholarship certificate to cover the cost of registration and testing toward future industry credentials.

## What (or Who) is it?



## Were you intrigued by this photo in the May Record?

“Stampin’stein” is a metal sculpture created by Kelly Carey.

This piece of art stands at the entrance to the lobby of Rockford Toolcraft in Rockford, Ill., and is a little more than 6-1/2’ tall. It is made up of hundreds of stamped parts created at Rockford Toolcraft through the years.



Regional Champions and their employers (l-r): Kevin Ahaus and James Marshall, Ahaus Tool & Engineering; Brian Cochran and Roger Valentine, Rochester Manufacturing; Bill Kleisle and Mike Sedita, Micro Instrument Corp.; Christopher Romejko and Tom Williams, Caco Pacific Corp.; Harold Luhrs and Micah Baggett, Eagle Technologies Group; Robert Anderson and Andrew Warren, Six Sigma Inc.; Michael Vucish and Mark Evangelist, Stellar Precision Components; Josh Geschke and David Emmerich, MAG Giddings & Lewis.

## Congratulations to all Regional Champions and their employers!

| Chapter      | Contestant             | Employer                                       |
|--------------|------------------------|--|
| Cleveland    | Brian Cochran          | Rochester Manufacturing Inc., Wellington, Ohio |
| Indianapolis | James B. Marshall      | Ahaus Tool & Engineering Inc., Richmond, Ind.  |
| Kentuckiana  | Andrew W. Warren       | Six Sigma Inc., Louisville, Ky.                |
| Los Angeles  | Christopher Romejko    | Caco Pacific Corporation, Covina, Calif.       |
| Michiana     | Micah Baggett          | Eagle Technologies Group, Bridgman, Mich.      |
| Pittsburgh   | Mark Evangelist        | Stellar Precision Components, Jeannette, Pa.   |
| Rochester    | William J. Kleisle, II | Micro Instrument Corp., Rochester, N.Y.        |
| WI - General | Josh Geschke           | MAG Giddings & Lewis, Fond Du Lac, Wis.        |

For additional information and photos of the competition, visit the NTMA homepage at [www.ntma.org](http://www.ntma.org) or contact the Education Department in Ft. Washington, Md., at 301-248-6200.

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