

## **NIMS Accredited Integrated Manufacturing Technology Program at Southern Maine Community College**

Southern Maine Community College is not your average community college campus, with its Portland Harbor water front location and views of Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse. Southern Maine Community College's beautiful South Portland campus is home to the Integrated Manufacturing Technology (IMT) program, recently recognized as a National Institute for Metalworking Skills accredited training program.

In its recommendations to NIMS, the accreditation on-site evaluation team, led by Mr. Norm McIntyre of McIntyre Consulting, described the program as "vibrant", and reported that local employers showed strong support for the program. The quality skills of the trainees in the IMT program reflects that assessment, with state SkillsUSA gold and silver medals in Precision Machining Technology going to students Craig Wade and Dan Bordeau, respectively. Mr. Wade also received the silver at the national SkillsUSA PMT competition.

Christopher Reimer, Chair of IMT's Advisory Committee and Tool Room Supervisor at Parker Nichols, a division of Parker Hannifin Corporation, is very pleased with the students from SMCC hired by Parker Nichols. "These students have the kinds of skills we were looking for," said Reimer. "We are looking forward to working with more of the program's graduates."

Sam Cushing, Human Relations Director at Rich Technology in Scarborough, ME, believes that workers holding NIMS certification is a great value to the industry. "These students have demonstrated a desire for continuous learning, which is critical. The new machine technology can't do it by itself," said Cushing.

John Bolduc, Program Chair, is the state Skills USA Precision Machining competition technical chair, as well as the SMCC SkillsUSA chapter advisor.