



IOWA LAKES CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUENA VISTA, CLAY, DICKINSON & EMMET COUNTIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2010

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Collaboration of school, industry creates sparks

SPENCER – When Scott Rettey took his Spencer High School metals class to General Machine Works for a tour, he didn't know it would end up in the employment of one of his students. The purpose of the tour and presentation, led by General Machine Works sales/processing engineer Jeremy Kelley, was to show the students what General Machine Works does for the machining industry. During the tour, Kelley mentioned that they are always looking for new talent.

Logan Rohwer was impressed with the facility and remembered Kelley's offer, so he returned to talk to Kelley. Because of Rohwer's valuable training through the school, he was hired as a lathe operator, and worked full-time through the summer to gain understanding of the CNC business. He is currently attending Northwest Iowa Community College for manufacturing technology.

General Machine Works is a privately owned business that has been in Spencer since 1973. Its core service is precision machined parts for various industries. The company employs nearly 50 people, and they service agriculture, oil and gasoline, and hydraulic industries. They conduct business on an international level, importing and exporting products. They are also a domestic source for contract manufacturing.

"Jeremy has been a real asset," said Rettey. During Kelley's presentations, he teaches the students about trends in the industry and job seeking skills, and tells of his own experience. Rettey takes his class to many businesses within the region in addition to General Machine Works, including Cycle Country, Eaton Corporation, Metal Works, Tecton Industries, Rosenboom Machine and Tool, Polaris, Nolin Milling, Maurer Manufacturing and State Steel Supply. "Each company has its own emphasis in the field," said Rettey. His students have also attended the Where Are the Welders workshop and the New and Emerging Technologies Forum and Career Fair, both hosted by the Iowa Lakes Corridor.

"This is a great example of schools and businesses working together, demonstrating to our high school students the opportunities for good paying jobs in our local communities," said Shaun Arneson, vice president of Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation. "We commend Scott Rettey and other educators in the region for giving our young people these kinds of real world experiences."

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The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation is the regional economic development agency for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. Its mission is to foster, encourage, aid, promote or otherwise assist in the economic growth and development of the region. For more information about the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, call 712.264.3474 or visit www.lakescorridor.com.