

AGMA and Richard J. Daley College

PARTNER ON NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN CHICAGO

The American Gear Manufacturers Association (AGMA) signed a partnership agreement with Richard J. Daley College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago yesterday, officially establishing the first AGMA National Training Center at Daley College in Chicago, IL. The AGMA National Training Center will be the center of engineering and operator level continuing education for all aspects of gear manufacturing.

The 10,000 sq ft. facility will train more than 600 students per year on all facets of gear manufacturing. From hosting the Basic Training for Gear Manufacturing to Gear Failure Analysis, students will be introduced to everything including machine set up basics to complex manufacturing procedures. In addition to the current gear industry and AGMA members, students enrolled in the Richard J. Daley College

manufacturing or engineering programs will have the opportunity to participate in the program being offered by AGMA.

“The National Training Center and the partnership with Daley College will allow us to achieve a significant education milestone for AGMA,” said AGMA President Matthew E. Croson. “The education of our workforce has been a primary mission of AGMA for decades, and we are recognized for our efforts on a global scale. The AGMA National Training Center at Daley College will enhance our reputation while delivering a world-class facility, with the equipment, tools and knowledge transfer that will be required to ensure the gear manufacturing industry has its fair share of skilled labor.”

Several people from AGMA and the Richard J. Daley College worked diligently together to make the training center a reality. The AGMA Board of Directors, the AGMA Education Committee, spearheaded by Vice President of Education Services Casandra Blassingame, the leadership at Richard J. Daley College including President Dr.



Photos courtesy of Richard J. Daley College.

Eduardo Garza and the Dean of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing David Girzadas, have spent months strategically planning how the facility would unfold.

“AGMA has been in partnership with the Richard J. Daley campus for the past 26 years,” said Blassingame. “Given the resurgence of the need to educate and train talent for the manufacturing industry, advancing the partnership to establish the AGMA National Training Center in collaboration is a creative and innovative way for industry to connect with education. We are excited about our presence in the backyard of many of our members and we are equally excited about the growth of this partnership under the amazing leadership of Dr. Eduardo Garza and Dean David Girzadas.”

By 2020, the AGMA National Training Center will host the majority of AGMA engineering and operator-level courses from April until November. The remainder of the year, AGMA will rotate courses in other parts of the country to offer a variety of locations to those not centered in the Chicago-area. Due to 38% of the gear industry supplier base being in the Chicago backyard, the training center will significantly reduce travel costs for companies in the local area.

“We really cannot thank our partners at Daley College enough for the work that they put into this along with our own members who helped Casandra shape the training center,” Croson added. “We hope that this facility will serve not only as an educational resource but will be a platform to introduced skilled workers to the industry and will be a primary tactic AGMA deploys to attract new employees to this dynamic and rewarding career path.” (www.agma.org)



Seco Tools

NAMES DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

To maximize customer engagement and satisfaction, Seco Tools has named **Bill Barcelona** as director of customer experience. In this new role, Barcelona and his team will address rapidly evolving customer needs to enhance sales and service responsiveness further throughout the company.



At Seco, Barcelona's responsibilities will include automating and streamlining processes and procedures to provide all customers with the most up-to-date, comprehensive data about their interactions with the company. He will promote effectiveness in foreseeing customer needs and focus on providing ease of use throughout distributor and end-user relationships with the company.

"I'm delighted to welcome Bill to my management team and look forward to his impact on our customer-facing efforts and plans," said Rob Keenan, president of Seco Tools, LLC. "He will be instrumental in our continued emphasis on forging enduring relationships with our customers."

With a background in capital markets and technology, Barcelona joins Seco from Kasasa, Ltd., a Texas-based financial technology and marketing services company, where he served as Senior Vice President, Client Success & Strategy. In that role, he developed a client success team that enhanced customer service and support, yielding significant sales growth by enabling customers to take full advantage of the company's products and services.

"I relish the opportunity to help make the Seco name synonymous with the highest quality of customer support and success as defined by our channel partners and end users," Barcelona said.

Barcelona holds a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Dayton and is pursuing an MBA at the University of Michigan. He lives in Royal Oak with his wife, a research professor in Kinesiology and Health Sciences at Wayne State University, and their three children. The family pursues a love of the outdoors through recreational activities including golf. (www.secotools.com)



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Forest City Gear

LAUNCHES ADVANCED TURNING AND MILLING FACILITY FOR GEAR BLANK PRODUCTION

Forest City Gear has expanded its turning and milling operations with a state-of-the-art facility designed to greatly improve lead times and quality for the production of precision gear blanks.

This highly productive 8,500 sq. ft. facility is in close proximity to Forest City Gear's main facility in Roscoe, IL, and now dedicated almost solely to the precision turning and milling operations needed to produce precision gear blanks. That's very good news for Forest City Gear customers, says Forest City Gear Turning and Milling Supervisor Mike Miller.



"This gives us complete control over the quality and delivery of the blanks (and slugs) that are the 'near net shape' starting point for many of the gears we produce," Miller said. "The types of projects we take on here at Forest City Gear for customers around the world have never been more demanding from a quality and delivery standpoint. If we start off a project with turned blanks out of tolerance, or waiting for blanks from a supplier, this can ultimately create a devastating production bottleneck when operations upstream are sitting idle waiting for product to arrive."

According to Miller, the facility, with its four late-model CNC lathes, three CNC machining centers, and dedicated Zeiss CMM, easily meets current capacity requirements, and gives the company much additional room to grow. Two Mazak Quick Turn 250 Turning Centers will arrive later this year to further expand capacity, and future plans call for the addition of a 5-axis machining capability for the production of small planetary housings and carriers. (www.forestcitygear.com)

Helios Gear Products

ANNOUNCES NEW TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Helios Gear Products has announced that **Dennis Hillary** has taken the new leadership position of senior service engineer for the company's technical service group. In response to growing demand for gear machine tool solutions, this team's size has doubled over the past two years. Consequently, Hillary now provides team leadership and mentorship in addition to continued technical service for Helios's North American gear manufacturing customers.



Hillary began his career as a tool maker for a small manufacturer in the Rockford, Illinois area. To grow his career, he moved to Ingersoll Machine Tools after a few years to take a position as a machine assembler. His 15 years' experience with Ingersoll grew to include general machine building, troubleshooting, and technical service. Before finally joining Koepfer America, he worked for a small machine tool rebuilder and retrofitter in the 1990s where he honed his experience and acumen for mechanical machine tool work.

In 1998, Hillary moved to Koepfer America, LLC to take a position as a dedicated service engineer for the fine-pitch gear manufacturing industry. As Koepfer America evolved its solutions, such as introducing the KFS series gear tool sharpening machines in 1999, he became a critical member of the technical team. Today, Helios Gear Products (formerly Koepfer America) recognizes Hillary as the senior leader for mechanical technical challenges, which include continued production of KFS gear tool sharpening machines, rebuilding and re-controlling of Koepfer models 160 and 200 CNC gear hobbing machines, supporting Helios's existing North American machine installations, and training the next generation of Helios personnel.

Hillary has always enjoyed the unique technical challenges associated with gear manufacturing. Considered by many as a "master mechanic," he provides unmatched solutions for customers in the industry. Gear manufacturers know that his mechanical expertise means fast troubleshooting, accurate solutions, and effective training. Said Adam Gimpert, business manager for Helios Gear Products, "Our company's accolades for gear manufacturing machine tool solutions simply would not be without Dennis's ongoing mechanical leadership." (www.heliosgearproducts.com)

Weiler Abrasives

RECOGNIZED FOR "LEADING A WARRIORS CHARGE" CAMPAIGN

Weiler Abrasives, a provider of abrasives, power brushes and maintenance products for surface conditioning received the People's Choice Innovation Impact Award at the 2019 Industrial Supply Association Convention on April 8. The award, which honors manufacturers who bring innovative products or services to the industrial MROP channel, is in recognition of the "Leading a Warriors Charge" Campaign the company launched in May 2018. The campaign supports Workshops for Warriors, a nonprofit school providing machining and welding training to veterans, wounded warriors and transitioning service members with the mission to "Rebuild American Manufacturing One Veteran at a Time."







"We are excited to be recognized by our peers in our efforts to bring awareness about Workshops for Warriors," says Nate Schmid, director of marketing – Americas, Weiler Abrasives. "It's taken a lot of hard work to bring the campaign to life, but we are proud to be able to support our veterans as they train to have successful careers in the advanced manufacturing sector. We hope that other manufacturers and industrial distributors will follow in our footsteps."


The "Leading a Warriors Charge" brand awareness and fundraising campaign includes print and digital advertising, video, distributor showroom displays and promotions, trade-show signage, and a website where visitors can donate and read about success stories from Workshops for Warriors' graduates. To date, the campaign has helped raise over \$77,000 for Workshops for Warriors. (www.weilerabrasives.com)

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