

## Sherman Central School students will receive hydraulic, pneumatic engineering training

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 SHERMAN — Students at Sherman Central School District will soon be able to receive training in hydraulic and pneumatic engineering, which will lead to a mechanical engineering certification, administrators and board members learned at their regular meeting Monday, Oct. 28.

Mark Perry of Fitzsimmons Hydraulics attended the board meeting to talk about the need for workers certified in hydraulics and pneumatics. Perry recently approached Sherman Super-

intendent Michael Ginestre with a program to teach students the basics of hydraulic engineering. He also donated several pieces of hydraulic equipment to the district's technology department.

Perry told board members that students who go on to Alfred State College of Technology can receive a mechanical engineering certification in hydraulics and will be in immediate demand by employers in that field.

"We have yet to have a kid who came out of that program with that certification who had to wait for a

job. They get snapped right up," Perry said.

Perry noted that hydraulics are everywhere in today's society. "Yet for some reason, it's been eliminated from education programs," he said.

Because of this, Perry said, Fitzsimmons Hydraulics developed a merit badge program in Fluid Power Systems for the Boy Scouts, but the project was put on hold. Therefore, he said, they decided to present the program to schools or other interested parties.

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Photo by David Prenatt  
 Sherman technology teacher Alan Tanski demonstrates a laser cutter to member of the board of education.

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Perry said he presented the idea to Chautauqua Lake Central School District, but they did not seem interested. However, he received an instant response from Sherman, he said.

Perry donated three brand new hydraulic power units and three hydrostatic transaxles to the Technology Department at Sherman. Technology teacher, Alan Tanski, said that these units will be used to teach hydraulic power concepts and theory in building small utility vehicles.

Tanski, who participated in the presentation, took board members on a tour of the technology department. Tanski reiterated that several mechanical industries, such as hydraulics, welding, construction, and automotive are "hurting for skilled workers."

Tanski, who is a third generation technology teacher with a wide range of experience, noted that the average age in many industrial fields is approaching 60. "They want kids who have the attitude of 'I can learn to do this. I can learn from the older workers,'" he said.

Perry also noted the lack

of skilled workers for manufacturing jobs. "We're running out of people in our industry," Perry said. "And these jobs are very lucrative."

According to a recent publication of Reliable Plant, which offers industrial plant professionals information on all aspects of manufacturing, energy management and workplace safety, millions of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. will not be filled due to a lack of skilled workers.

The United States faces a need for nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs over the next decade, and 2 million of those jobs are likely to go unfilled due to a skills gap, according to new research from Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute.

Tanski, who was recently appointed to the New York State Master Teachers Program, told board members that students can earn college credits in his classroom. "Leaving here, the kids can get credit for two full courses at JCC," he said. He noted that the credits can be transferred to other schools.

Perry told board members that the certification received at Alfred is very attractive to employers. "Just up the road

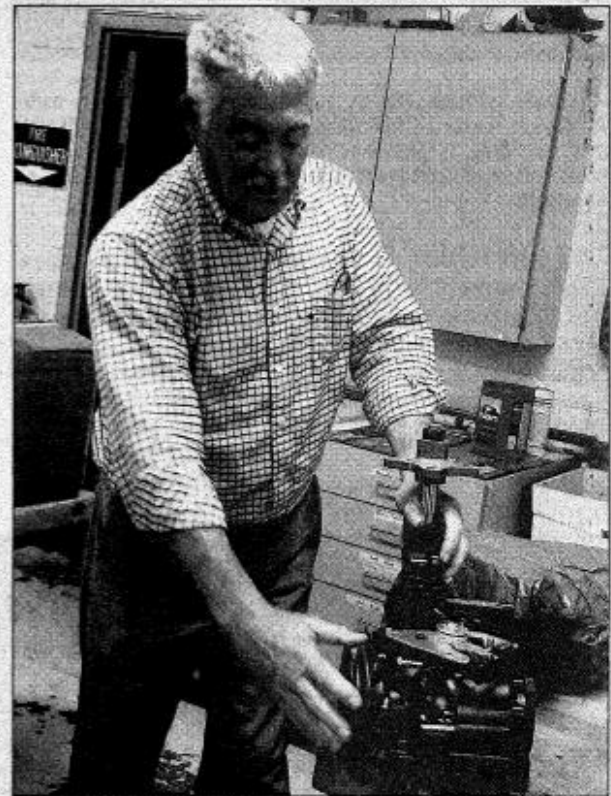


Photo by David Prenatt  
 Hydraulic Engineer Mark Perry describes one of the motors he donated to Sherman School.

in Alfred we've got a tech school," he said. "The certification tests and puts people's abilities right up front."

At the conclusion of the presentation, Perry showed

board members a Hydro Gear ZT-3400 Zero Turn which he donated to the school. "This is pretty much what you will find in every zero turn mower," he said.