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Media Advisory

Valley Machine Partners with Glencoe High School to Provide Real-World Learning Experiences for Students

*Media invited to Glencoe at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012
2700 NW Glencoe Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124*

September 27, 2012, Hillsboro, Ore. – Valley Machine, a precision machine shop based in North Plains, has donated a computer numerical control (CNC) machine tool to Glencoe High School worth over \$30,000 and has agreed to host interns to ensure students have an opportunity to learn valuable, real-world skills in the machining trade.

Valley Machine's relationship with the school dates back to when now current employees Andy Spiering ('97) and Roger Williams ('86) took classes from Rob Brauer – Glencoe's Machining, Metals, and Welding teacher since 1985 – and from there established their careers in manufacturing.

The Manufacturing industry in the United States has successfully survived the global recession and has effectively executed changes that have made it leaner and improved quality as well as its competitive position. In Oregon, manufacturing accounts for 20% of gross products, 10% of the workforce, \$34 billion in sales, and provides solid employment with good benefits and advancement opportunities. One of the issues facing manufacturing today, however, is a difficulty in filling positions with qualified and skilled team members. The management at Valley Machine recognizes that the future of manufacturing lies in an educated and skilled workforce. To that end, they contacted Rob Brauer at Glencoe to see if there were needs they could assist with at the high school level.

On invitation, they toured the Metals working area and discovered several interesting facts and issues: the program has good participation with active and engaged students, but not all equipment represents

current technology. One item that had been a key part of the program, a CNC milling machine, had been deemed non-repairable several years ago. Valley Machine reviewed this need, consulted with Brauer, and solidified a deal over the summer whereby Valley agreed to fully support the donation of an appropriate milling machine, clean and upgrade the shop area with epoxy painted floors, provide necessary tooling and supplies for full functionality, and deliver training to guarantee a successful start-up and full utilization by the students. Valley also contacted Omega Morgan, a local heavy equipment mover, who donated their services to move and locate the machine on the shop floor at Glencoe, as well as Western Cutting Tool, who agreed to donate a new vise for the machine.

Because of this amazing, multi-faceted partnership, approximately 40-45 students will be able to take a Machining class at Glencoe this year that is articulated with PCC—meaning they will earn high school and college credits at the same time—in which they will be challenged to create machined components that society needs to move forward with technological advances, and also have an opportunity to intern in a trade that provides living-wage jobs.

The media is invited to come to Glencoe High School on Thursday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m. to tour the Metals area, meet Tony Spiering, President of Valley Machine; Andy Spiering, Operations Manager; Roger Williams, Shop Manager; and Mr. Brauer, and observe students as they work and train on their new milling machine.

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