

merry christmas



Merry Christmas from Industrial Molds, Inc.

December 2014

Happy Holidays as Another Year Draws to a Close

Another year is drawing to a close and we want to thank all of our customers who have helped make this one of the best years ever for Industrial Molds Group.

The investments we have made - and those we will continue to make in 2015 - will benefit our customers in many ways. We will be able to continue to reduce lead times on projects and provide the latest technology that makes possible the innovative solutions that Industrial Molds creates to help solve your most challenging mold requirements.

We know that you continue to hear a lot about the "Reshoring" efforts of American manufacturing, and our investments in machine technology will ensure all of you that we stand ready to meet your mold requirements with efficiency that results in the highest quality and molding productivity.

We wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Apprenticeship Programs Help Resolve Skilled Worker Shortage

At the same time that we hear a lot about U.S. manufacturers reshoring their production, we are also being reminded that there is a skilled worker shortage. We know that our investments in automation and high-tech machine tools provide some relief from this problem, but we also know that the people at Industrial Molds are our most valuable asset.

The many years of experience of our long-time journeyman mold makers, mold designers and programmers provide Industrial Molds with our competitive edge, and without them we couldn't be who we are. That's why apprenticeship programs are critical. We need young people to come into the industry to be mentored by our long time employees, to teach and train them in the critical aspects of mold manufacturing.

Recently, two of our apprentices were runners up in the American Mold Builders Association's Chicago Chapter 2014 Mold Your Career Apprenticeship Award. Justin Carlson and Zach Hillers each received a \$40 Starbucks gift certificate.

Zach Hillers works on the EDM/Carbon side of Industrial Molds' production floor, and is amazed at the whole process. "While it seems to be a niche part of the moldmaking field as a whole, it's been eye-opening to what kind of career persistence can lead to."

Justin Carlson explained that he didn't know what a plastic injection mold was or what it even looked like he became an apprentice. Today, he's excited about his career prospects as he continues to work and learn the industry from bottom to top. "I would say the best thing about being an apprentice is having the opportunity to work in each of the departments," he says. "There are so many benefits to have exposure to all of the steps and processes it takes to build a mold. I've developed an appreciation for every role in each area, as everyone plays an important part in the development and completion of each tool."

Justin, who is currently working in High-speed Machining Programming, adds that he also enjoys the "challenge, complexity of the parts" that Industrial Molds manufactures, as well as the "problem-solving opportunities" that arise each day. "But probably what I like the most is being able to learn and work with very experienced craftsmen," he says. "The average age of workers in this industry is pretty top heavy, but that's a benefit for me and other apprentices, as we are able to learn from the years of experience from master toolmakers. Basically there's unlimited knowledge to tap into here at Industrial Molds, and many opportunities to learn different tricks of the trade."

Industrial Molds Chosen for ANTEC Presentation at NPE:

Industrial Molds has been chosen to make a technical presentation at the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC), to be held in conjunction with the Society of the Plastics Industry's National Plastics Exposition (NPE) March 23-27, 2015 at the Orlando Convention Center, Orlando, Florida.

Kerry Smith, Project Engineer, will be giving the technical presentation "Mold Design for Reduction of Offline Assembly and Secondary Operations" that will focus on designing for metal-to-plastic conversion for part consolidation, two-shot molding and other molding technologies for reducing production costs and improving quality.

Industrial Molds will be presenting on Wednesday morning, March 25, in the Mold Making & Mold Design Division section of SPE. For more information see the SPE ANTEC Website at www.4spe.org/Events/event.aspx?EventID=51212

Also, stop and visit Industrial Molds Group's booth featuring both Industrial Molds and Pyramid Plastics, Booth #S22144.

**Watch for Your Invitation to NPE 2015 in the January
Edition
Of the Industrial Molds e-Newsletter**

Sincerely,

Industrial Molds, Inc.