



2007 Educator of the Year Award

Richard Hannigan, WMIA board member and Holz-Her U.S. Inc. vice president/sales, announced the Michigan Career and Technical Institute as recipient of the 2007 Educator of the Year Award. In his introduction Hannigan said, "WMIA has strongly believed in the importance and value of educational institutions for providing information and training as a window to career opportunities in the woodworking industry. In an era when young people often are seeking challenging careers which utilize and incorporate modern technology, the woodworking industry is often challenged by a perception of a low-skill, short-term career path.

The Educator of the Year Award was created to provide recognition for institutions that have made significant strides in training students in modern woodworking principles utilizing high-technology machinery and software."

He noted that, "Beginning in 1944 as the Michigan Veterans Vocational School, MCTI is now the second largest vocational rehabilitation training facility in the United States. Its Cabinetmaking/Millwork Training Department is the only post-secondary industrial woodworking program in Michigan. Physical, mental and emotional disabilities are accommodated through a variety of assistive devices, specialized learning strategies and disability management counseling. This MCTI department has been putting a steady influx of competent technicians into the workforce for over 63 years."

Placement services are available to all students for life. The department maintains an extensive database of wood-related companies throughout the upper Midwest. It had 100 percent placement last year, all within the industry, and placement is consistently above 90 percent, with an average of 22 graduates a year going to woodworking companies.

Jim Wellever, director of MCTI's Cabinetmaking/Millwork Training Department, accepted the award.