



## **2008 Educator of the Year Award**

John Park, WMIA member and Delmac, Inc., general manager, announced the Madison Area Technical College (MATC) based in Madison, Wis., as winner of the 2008 Educator Award that honors educational programs that produce trained, motivated and skilled employees for wood product manufacturing companies, especially those are integrating today's high-technology equipment. Curricula must reflect the needs of today's marketplace, must not be limited to employees of a single company, and provide hands-on training using high-technology equipment supplied by WMIA members.

Park noted that MATC's "cabinetmaking and millwork program is dedicated to providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement all facets of cabinetry, furniture and millwork projects, from planning to the finishing details. While they are trained in using traditional woodworking equipment and hand tools, they also receive hands-on training in the latest CNC machinery and software.

"MATC is nationally recognized as a leader in training. Recognizing that students learn at different rates, it offers an innovative self-directed curriculum that enables open enrollment unlimited by structured quarters or semesters. Students learn theory and process outside of class through WoodLINKS USA web-based media and digital video with lab time dedicated to practice and demonstrating proficiency to instructors. In 2010 it is anticipated the program will go to a 45-week curriculum.

"MATC maintains an active relationship with more than 25 woodworking industry companies in the area to obtain career opportunities for its students."

Patrick Molzahn, MATC's cabinetmaking and millwork program director – as well as a member of the Woodwork Career Alliance board, the AWFS Education Committee , and WoodLINKS USA's state and national boards – accepted the Award.