



## **UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED TRAINING AND COLLEGE CREDITS**

**CLAREMONT and HANOVER, NH—Oct. 14, 2008**—River Valley Community College (RVCC) and Hypertherm today announced a unique educational partnership that will make it possible for many more Northern New England residents to obtain a college degree while working for an advanced manufacturing company.

Individuals who complete training through the Hypertherm Technical Training Institute (HTTI) have the opportunity to receive a Certificate in Advance Machine Tool Technology and up to 24 college credits. The credits can be applied toward an Associate's degree from RVCC in Claremont.

"RVCC is committed to the creation of education and training that serve the needs of Upper Valley employers, and the economic development needs of our region. This partnership represents a strategy that builds upon the strengths of the college and the private sector to deliver a comprehensive education to people all over the area," stated Steve Budd, President of River Valley Community College.

"We are fortunate to have the challenge of expanding our workforce needs to meet growing demand for our products. How well we meet this challenge will be determined by how well we can hire and educate a trained workforce," said Jim Miller, Team Leader for Hypertherm's Mechanized Torch and Consumables Division.

The partnership was reached after a thorough academic evaluation of HTTI curriculum. The evaluation included a comparison of the competencies and outcomes met by the Hypertherm program and those met by River Valley's Advanced Machine Tool Technology Program. RVCC officials concluded the courses were in academic alignment with the programs offered at the college; a decision that cleared the way for the college to grant adjunct faculty status to HTTI instructors.

"This agreement is an important part of a larger effort to build a skilled high-technology workforce that will attract and retain local area businesses and provide good paying jobs," said Gerry Ghazi, President of Vermont HITEC, a nonprofit organization that was instrumental in bringing the two parties together.

This agreement also provides for a means for area employers and residents to take advantage of HTTI courses and for this education program to be delivered to outside companies through RVCC's Business Training Center.

"Manufacturing companies in this area have been in need of focused, short-term training programs in advanced machining skills for a long time," continued Budd. "I am pleased that the college can now offer these companies a solution. I also want to congratulate Hypertherm's leadership in recognizing the value of higher education by offering this opportunity to their associates and allowing area employers to take advantage of HTTI programs."

For more information, please contact:

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