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News Release

For Immediate Release

Optimax Launches Precision Optics Manufacturing (POM) Apprenticeship Program

The first of its kind official certified by the Department of Labor in New York State

Ontario, N.Y. – June 6, 2016 – [Optimax](http://optimaxsi.com), a high precision optics manufacturer, is pleased to announce the official certification of the (Precision) Optics Manufacturing Technician (POM) occupation. With this, a POM apprenticeship program has begun at Optimax this month. The program developed out of a need in the optics and manufacturing industries to increase earning potential.

“In this industry there is a challenge with earning potential,” said Mike Mandina, President, Optimax. “The apprenticeship program allows someone coming out of high school to get both an education and hands-on training, while getting paid and learning a certified occupation that will increase their earning potential.”

The program was official endorsed by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) on March 2, 2016. It has also received endorsements from the [American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association \(APOMA\)](http://apoma.org), [Colorado Photonics Industry Association](http://coloradophotonics.org), [Florida Photonics Cluster](http://floridaphotonics.com), [New Mexico Optics Industry Association](http://newmexicooptics.com), and the [Rochester \(New York\) Regional Photonics Cluster](http://rochesterphotonics.com).

“The industry endorsements we’ve received so far have been astounding, and a great way to start off” said Mandina. “By creating a certified program, we are hoping to start the movement that can be endorsed and replicated by other companies in the industry to continue developing the opticians of the future.”

The three year program will include a combination of educational course work and on-the-job-training (OJT). A team of journey workers at Optimax will train the apprentices, and they will also be required to complete up to two courses per semester at [Monroe Community College \(MCC\)](http://monroecollege.edu) that are applicable towards the [MCC Optical Systems Technology](http://mccoptical.com) program.

For the first year of the program, candidates will be chosen from current Optimax employees. Candidates will be required to pass an exam and an interview process before being accepted into the program. The first official POM apprentice program is a current Optimax employee Patrick Marble. Additional apprentices will be added every three months for a total of four within the first year.

[Optimax](http://optimaxsi.com) is a manufacturer of high precision optics in medical, aerospace, defense and semiconductor industries, located in Ontario, NY with more than 280 employees.

Photos: on page two with captions

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Optimax Precision Optics Manufacturing (POM) Apprenticeship



Optimax's first official Precision Optics Manufacturing (POM) Apprentice, Patrick Marble, operating a high-tech Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machine as part of the high precision optics manufacturing process.



Optimax's first official Precision Optics Manufacturing (POM) Apprentice, Patrick Marble, left, and Optimax President Mike Mandina, right, shaking hands to congratulate on official apprenticeship.

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