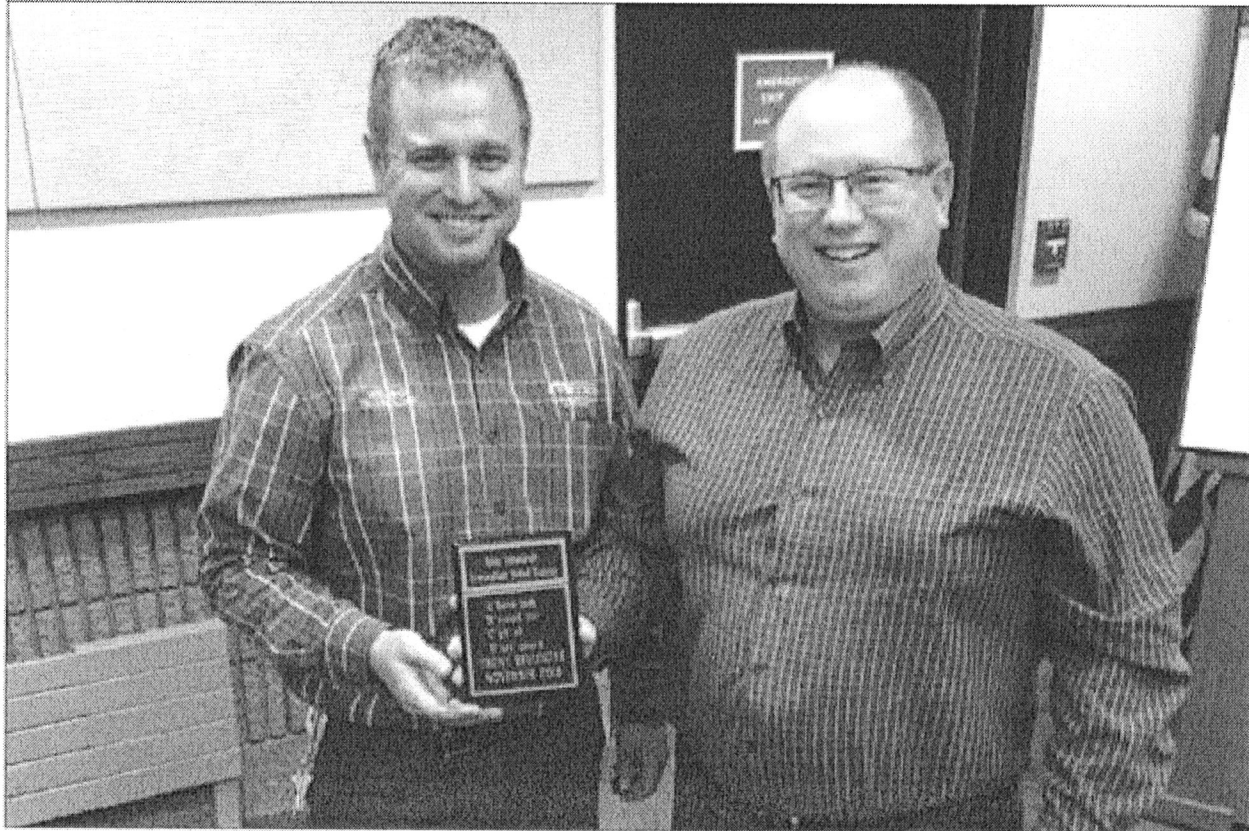


COMMUNITY**5A****Bellingar gets award from DSISD**

Courtesy photo

Trent Bellingar, left, welding technology instructor at Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, is shown receiving the ABCD award from DSISD School Board President Erik Bessonon. The ABCD award is presented monthly to a DSISD staff member nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the call of duty. Bellingar was recognized in November for leadership in school improvement activities and his mentorship of new teachers and students.



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Scott Berry, a student in Bay College's welding program, tests out some new equipment in the school's renovated welding lab as Bay College welding instructor Keith Proctor looks on. To make both of its welding labs as cutting-edge as possible, Bay has purchased 40 new welding booths, 18 new welding machines, a shearing machine, ironworker machine, band saw and a drill press.

Bay revamps welding program

By Jordan Beck

jbeck@dailypress.net

ESCANABA — Thanks to funding provided through the school's millage and a pair of state and federal grants, Bay College's welding program will be bigger than ever during the winter 2016 semester.

Improvements made to the program with this funding include the renovation of Bay College's pre-existing welding lab, the construction of an entirely new lab next door, and the purchase of cutting-edge new equipment for both. Welding Instructor David Konkel said he expects work on the facility to be completed in the next two weeks.

"It'll be open for next semester," he said.

The addition of a second lab will allow twice as many students to get involved with the welding program. In the past, instructors were unable to include many of the students wanted

to take welding classes, but Konkel said the expansion should make this less of a problem.

"We can run twice as many students through every semester," he said.

The improvements to Bay's welding program were made possible by a \$1.4 million federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant, a \$750,000 state Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program grant, and the renewal of the college's millage.

Along with making the renovation and construction elements of the project possible, these funding sources have allowed for the purchase of 40 new welding booths, 18 new welding machines, a shearing machine, an ironworker machine, a band saw, and a drill press to make the labs as up-to-date as possible.

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Bay College Welding Instructor David Konkel inspects equipment for Bay's newly-constructed welding lab, set to open for the winter 2016 semester.



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Scott Berry, a student in Bay College's welding program, tests out some new equipment in the school's renovated welding lab. To make both welding labs as cutting-edge as possible, Bay has purchased 40 new welding booths, 18 new welding machines, a shearing machine, an ironworker machine, a band saw, and a drill press.

Bay: Welding

Continued from page 1A

Bay College has also invested in a dedicated metallurgy lab in the welding facility, a welding program at its Iron Mountain campus, and a new virtual reality system which will be implemented to help new students get a "feel" for welding without using up materials.

"We are ordering robotic welding cells and welding simulators," Konkel said.

Students in the welding program have been looking forward to the opportunity to use this new equipment.

"It's definitely going to prepare you for the workforce because that's what's going to be getting used out there," student Scott Berry said.

Executive Dean for Business, Technology, and Workforce Development Mark Kirney said he feels these improvements to the program will make Bay's welding program even stronger.

"We hope these enhanced facilities and the equipment they contain help us to provide a high-quality welding education to a larger number of students each year, thereby helping to fill some of the employment demand we're seeing in our area and help our graduates to obtain high-paying and rewarding careers," he said.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

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