

## **Greenfield machine company receives national recognition**

**By ANITA FRITZ Recorder Staff** February 13, 2015

GREENFIELD — A local precision machine shop owner has been recognized nationally for taking the lead in forming a partnership with other area manufacturers to provide guidance and support to Franklin County Technical School in 2011 when it renovated and upgraded its machine shop.

Steven Capshaw, owner and chief executive officer of VSS (Valley Steel Stamp) in the Interstate 91 Industrial Park, will receive the W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award for his company from the National Association of Workforce Boards on March 28-31 in Washington, D.C.

Capshaw is currently away, so could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

VSS is a precision machine shop specializing in making complex machined components for major manufacturers in industries like aerospace and oil production.

According to the NAWB, the local company invested \$213,000 in donations that it collected and invested “countless hours” in the state-of-the-art school project and a program that trains high school students and adults in advanced computer-assisted machine tool manufacturing.

VSS was founded in 1971 in Greenfield. It began with two employees manufacturing steel marking tools.

Over the years, the company has evolved and today employs more than 50 people and has served more than 500 customers in more than 20 countries worldwide.

The company has a 27,000-square-foot facility that was recently renovated.

Capshaw championed the need for private businesses and the state to invest in modern machine tools because local manufacturers were seeing a severe shortage of qualified job applicants for good-paying industrial jobs locally.

His efforts not only led to replacing the Tech School’s outdated machine shop tools but also led to creation of an adult second-career night school at the Tech.



**VSS owner Steven Capshaw uses CNC, computer numerical control, machines in his Greenfield shop to machine metal parts for his customers.**

Recorder/Paul Franz