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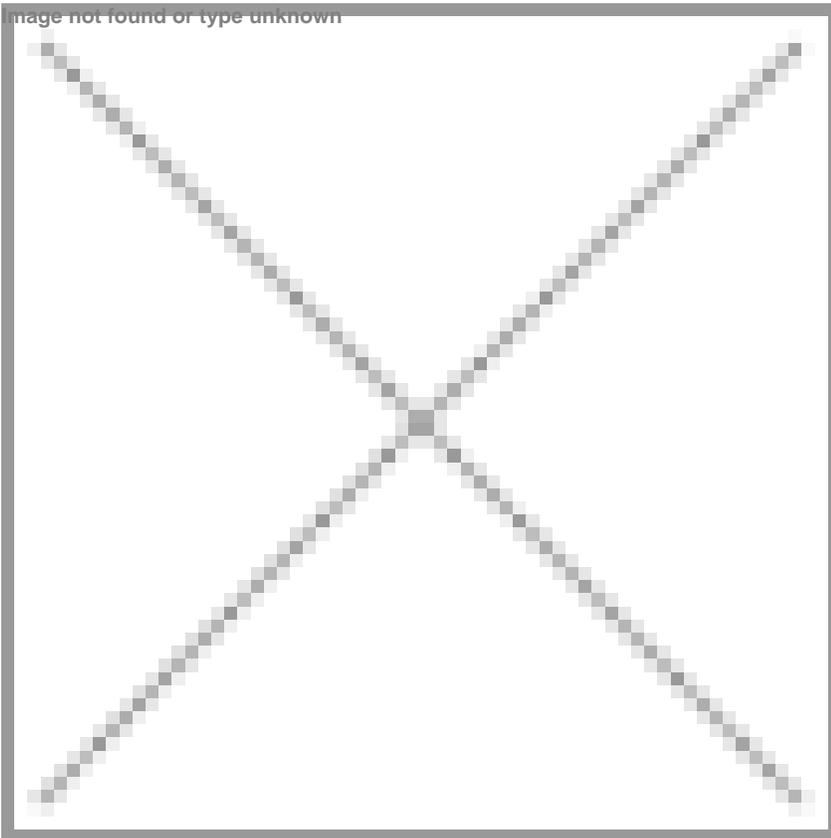
Thilo Sagermann

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, November 20, 2020

SMS group apprentice crowned champion in her year group

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Left to right: Daniela Perner, Head of Innovation for Specialist Education at the Chamber of Commerce IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein, hands over the awards to Head of Vocational Training at SMS group Marion Hermanns and apprentice Laura Kimmel.

Laura Kimmel, an apprentice at SMS group has been crowned the best in her year group in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, after completing her industrial management apprenticeship with 98 out of 100 points.

21-year-old Laura Kimmel was modest when asked about the key to her success: "I realized that this industrial management apprenticeship was definitely the right decision for me. The topics were really interesting. I am ambitious, but the company gave me a lot of support and encouragement too."

Although the coronavirus pandemic meant that this year's best apprentices from the region could not be given the full celebration they deserved, Kimmel was visibly thrilled with her achievement.

But she is not resting on her laurels. Quite the opposite: she is planning to continue her successful career. Laura Kimmel is now working in SMS group's controlling department, while also studying for a degree in business administration.

SMS group also received praise for its dedication and high quality in this so-called dual education program, which combines university studies with on-the-job training. The company was once again declared the best training organization by the regional chamber of commerce. Thanks to Laura Kimmel's excellent achievements this year, SMS group also received a special award in the commercial training category.

SMS group has always placed great emphasis on vocational training. Alongside the instructors, many employees do their bit as training officers to give apprentices everything they need to get the best possible grades and lay solid foundations for their future careers. SMS group offers a total of ten apprenticeships in industrial, technical and commercial

professions at its German sites in Düsseldorf,
Hilchenbach, Mönchengladbach and Witten.

SMS group is a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It has some 14,000 employees who generate worldwide sales of more than EUR 2.9 billion. The sole owner of the holding company SMS GmbH is the Familie Weiss Foundation.