

News Alert

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THE MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH THE TOOLING AND MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION (TMA) TO ADDRESS SKILLS NEEDS OF MANUFACTURERS

New partnership with leading manufacturing association will help address critical skills gap crisis facing manufacturers

WASHINGTON, DC, April 27, 2012 — The Manufacturing Institute has partnered with the Tooling and Manufacturing Association (TMA) to help address the needs of employers in manufacturing. Recognizing that the foundation of a strong workforce begins with the education and training of future employees and as the manufacturing industry sustains growth and momentum, this partnership will focus on the expansion of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System. The Skills Certification System is seen as a key step towards building the educated and skilled workforce U.S. manufacturers need to successfully compete in the global economy.

The NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System is the flagship education initiative of the manufacturing sector. The Skills Certification System is being used to integrate nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials – their learning standards and content – into high school, community college, and university programs of study to build the nation’s technical workforce. Certification partners comprise foundational academic, workplace, and technical skills as well as process and occupation-specific skills necessary for jobs across all sectors of the manufacturing economy.

“In this highly competitive global market, our manufacturers’ business success is tied directly to their ability to innovate, and the single most important factor in their innovation capacity is an educated and skilled workforce, said Jennifer McNelly, president, The Manufacturing Institute. “We now have a solution, the Manufacturing Skills Certification System, to help address the skills gap directly affecting the workforce pipeline for manufacturers. We are pleased to

welcome TMA as a new partner to go forward together to address the shortage of skilled workers in the United States.”

“TMA is training the next generation of Illinois manufacturing professionals,” said Brian McGuire, President. “Our blended learning approach provides the employees of TMA member companies with the flexible and high-quality training they need to maximize their potential.” To help address the skills gap directly affecting the workforce pipeline for manufacturers, TMA offers the following:

- Traditional classroom training, including TMA's renowned Related Theory curriculum, is the cornerstone of a solid education in manufacturing;
- Efficient online training, from leading providers Amatrol and Tooling U, gives members the flexibility to train whenever and wherever they choose;
- Certifications from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) and the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) ensure that students meet the rigorous standards necessary for success in manufacturing.

In addition to the many courses listed in the TMA Education Catalog, the organization can customize training to meet the specific needs of companies and their employees.

Context

Results from the *2011 Skills Gap Report*, authored by *The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte*, show that over 80% of manufacturers are experiencing a moderate to serious shortage in skilled production talent, like machinists and technicians, and 60% have a similar shortage of production engineers. This national crisis is predicted to worsen in the coming years. To combat this talent crisis, the Institute identified several leading industry associations to serve as leading advocates for industry-recognized skills certifications.

About The Manufacturing Institute

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501 (c) 3 affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. As a non-partisan organization, the Institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation's manufacturers. The Institute focuses on developing human capital strategies through education reform and workforce development, conducting applied research to provide critical information to public policy makers on challenges and opportunities for today's industry, and advancing the innovation capacity of manufacturers operating in a global market.

About the Tooling and Manufacturing Association

The Tooling & Manufacturing Association (TMA) was founded in 1925 by 8 small manufacturing companies who thought they could better themselves by associating with one another. Through the years, members established programs and services that would help their businesses grow and prosper, train their employees, and provide medical and retirement benefits. As a result of these efforts, TMA has grown into a 1,250 member not-for-profit organization of precision manufacturing and supplier companies in the greater Chicago area.

TMA is governed by a Board of Directors, composed of executives from member firms. A full-time professional staff works closely with the Board and its committees and trusts.

Mission & Purpose

Recognizing manufacturers as value-added producers of goods and services, and creators of high quality jobs for

Chicago area citizens, the Tooling & Manufacturing Association supports industry by providing educational opportunities, industry representation, services to foster member company global competitiveness and by:

- *Helping member companies train and educate personnel at all levels*
- *Providing direct and indirect sources of information and assistance*
- *Pooling the purchasing power of member companies*
- *Representing and promoting the interests of member companies*
- *Serving as a forum and a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas and information*
- *Fostering a sense of mutual support and unity among the members and the industry as a whole*