PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Industry Leaders Shed Light on Next-Generation Skills at Manufacturing Symposium

Manufacturing Workforce 4.0 lays out the future of skills, training and education for the manufacturing industry

WASHINGTON, July 11, 2017: Manufacturers committed to training partnerships and new models to grow their workforce came together today at Manufacturing Workforce 4.0, a symposium on skills for the new economy hosted by The Manufacturing Institute. Influential manufacturing executives and thought leaders on the workplace revolution highlighted apprenticeship models, recruitment strategies and education models that are raising skill levels and putting Americans to work in manufacturing.

Speakers included Wes Bush, chairman, CEO and president of Northrop Grumman, and Brian Krinock, senior vice president of Vehicle Plants at Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America. Both companies have undergone rapid technological change and prioritize education partnerships leading into manufacturing careers.

At the event, the Institute released a new report, Training to Win, that covers trends that are remaking the manufacturing workforce and addresses talent solutions for the new economy.

Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs likely need to be filled, and the skills gap is expected to result in 2 million of those jobs going unfilled. The report outlines principles for closing that gap, including the need for modern, flexible apprenticeship and on-the-job training models and streamlined education paths that allow more people to earn industry credentials that are in demand for manufacturing.

“Today’s conversation couldn’t be more important—for our communities and for our country. This is manufacturing’s moment and building a modern manufacturing workforce is among our industry’s most pressing challenges. The Manufacturing Institute continues to lead the way as we share best practices, address the perceptions of manufacturing and convene innovative business leaders who are rising to the challenge of charting new frontiers for our sector,” said Jay Timmons, President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers.

“Across America, talented men and women on shop floors, in labs and in offices are moving our industry into the future. But we need more of that talent. We need more people eager to seize these well-paying, skilled jobs,” said Carolyn Lee, executive director, The Manufacturing Institute. “We have seen companies want to learn from one another, and today’s symposium focused on solutions that are working for manufacturers of all sizes.”
“Any solution to our nation’s workforce problems requires partnerships,” said Wes Bush, chairman, CEO and president of Northrop Grumman. “Good partnerships display commitment at all levels. They have to be government-to-government; industry-to-industry; industry to government. And both government and industry must maintain strong relationships with the great institutes and universities across the nation,” he added.

The event, which took place at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., was sponsored by Arconic Foundation, ACT, Amatrol, MSSC, NIST, 180Skills, and NC3. Click here to read the full Training to Win report.

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**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 is the authority on the attraction, qualification and development of world-class manufacturing talent. For more information, please visit www.themanufacturinginstitute.org.