

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Institute Receives Grant to Further Implement Skills Certification System

Institute Joins National Network to Help Bridge Learning and Working in 21st Century Economy

Washington, DC, June 23, 2014: Today, The Manufacturing Institute became an inaugural member of the National Network of Business and Industry Associations (the Network), an effort led by Business Roundtable and ACT Foundation. As a member, the Institute has received a grant to implement strategies that improve economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans by better connecting the working world and the learning world.

The Manufacturing Institute will use their grant to document successful approaches learned in executing the Skills Certification System and develop a train-the-trainer guide on implementing competency-based skills certification.

The Manufacturing Institute launched the Skills Certification System in 2009, as a means to improve the quality of technical education and ensure its alignment to manufacturers across the country. The Skills Certification System is designed by and for industry, and endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. The Skills Certification System has activities in 36 states, and 73 community colleges are on the “M-List” recognizing education institutions that align to manufacturing certifications in credit-bearing programs of study. Since 2011, more than 290,478 certifications were awarded, positioning the System on target to achieve the goal of 500,000 certifications issued by 2016.

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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.

About ACT Foundation

ACT Foundation reaches across organizational boundaries, sectors, and the nation, to fund and develop strategic approaches to support working learners in their individual journeys toward successful careers and lives. Based in Austin, Texas, ACT Foundation is a private, independent organization, endowed by ACT, a nonprofit public trust committed to helping people achieve education and workplace success. The Foundation connects fifty years of data and insights to catalyze and build a National Learning Economy that will nurture the success of working learners while fueling a stronger economy.