Statements by Manufacturing Executives and Union Officials on the Importance of a Credentialed Workforce

Manufacturers look at their workforce as a business investment: the more mobile, adaptable, technology-savvy, and creative an employee, the more secure the investment. That’s why we keep two balance sheets – one financial and one human capital – to develop and manage our workforce as a business asset. The nationally portable, industry-recognized credentialing system is a critical tool to ensure Illinois’ community colleges can graduate students with the skills needed at Bison Gear.”

 Ron Bullock, President, Bison Gear

“To succeed as a U.S. manufacturer in the 21st century, I must invest in programs that recruit talented individuals onto advanced manufacturing career pathways that provide the provable skill sets I need to grow my company and innovate for the future of the aerospace industry.”

 Collie L. Hutter, Owner, Click Bond, Inc.

“A smart, safe, and sustainable manufacturing sector relies on the knowledge, advanced skills, and innovation of its workforce. We need to attract students to long-term careers in manufacturing and prepare them to meet future marketplace demands. An education system that provides industry-sponsored credentials is a critical part of creating the workforce we need to be successful.”

 Blake Moret, Vice President, Rockwell Automation

“In the competitive nature of the world, winning today requires exceptional talent. This makes the pipeline of workers a significant issue for manufacturers. Partnering with schools that provide nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials gives us confidence that we can hire people with the right skills to expand our business.”

 Don McCabe, Senior Vice President, Corning, Inc.

“I advise each of my staff that every worker hired is a million-dollar investment for this company. I’m calculating that most hires are under 45 years old; we intend to keep them for at least 20 years, and our average annual salary/benefits package is $55,000. In other words, we can’t afford to make a mistake—to hire someone without the right skills. Verifiable skills certification programs can make the difference between a good investment and a high-risk.”

 Dennis Rohrs, Director of Human Resources, Fort Wayne Metals, Inc.

“The work of the MSSC (Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, one of the founding partners in the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System) is a first step in building a national strategy to revitalize manufacturing in America.”

 Bob Baugh, Exec. Dir. AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council