

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Over 418,000 Industry-Based Certifications Issued Since 2011

The Manufacturing Institute and partners increase credentialed workforce through Skills Certification System

Washington, DC, March 2, 2015: Today, The Manufacturing Institute and its partners in the Skills Certification System announced significant progress toward achieving a 5-year goal to award 500,000 industry-based certifications to individuals. Over the past year, the certification partners have issued 129,084 certifications, bringing the total to 419,528 certifications issued since 2011. With 84 percent of manufacturers citing a moderate to severe shortage of skilled workers, this is an important step in closing the skills gap and increasing the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing.

“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 of The Manufacturing Institute. “Our solution, the Skills Certification System, helps address the skills gap directly affecting the workforce pipeline for manufacturers by aligning manufacturing education and training with industry standards.”

Access to a highly skilled and educated workforce is the most critical element for innovation success. Increasingly, companies report they cannot find individuals with the skills required for today’s advanced manufacturing workplaces. These skill shortages pervade all stages of manufacturing, from skilled production to engineering. Over the next decade, the skills gap will only grow as the demographics of our workforce drive “boomer” retirements and replacement requirements. According to a recent study by Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute, the skills gap is expected to reach 2 million jobs between now and 2025.

The Manufacturing Institute launched the Skills Certification System to address the skills gap challenge and to promote a renaissance of manufacturing education across the country. The Skills Certification System is designed by and for industry, and endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers.

In June 2011, at an event at Northern Virginia Community College, President Obama highlighted the [Skills Certification System](#) as a model for industry-based credentials and endorsed the Institute’s goal of 500,000 certifications. The Institute continues to work with high schools, community and technical

colleges, and employers to create education and training programs aligned to industry-based standards to establish an effective talent pipeline.

The Manufacturing Skills Certification System is managed by the Institute and the certification partners that comprise the system: ACT, the American Society for Quality (ASQ), the American Society of Transportation and Logistics (ASTL), the American Welding Society (AWS), the Association for Operations Management (APICS), the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association (FMA), International, the International Fluid Power Society (IFPS), International Society of Automation (ISA), the Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI), the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC), the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS), the North American Die Casting Association (NADCA), the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), the Packaging Machinery Manufacturing Institute (PMMI), and SME.

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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.