PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Military to Manufacturing: Forum Event to Encourage Hiring Veterans
Manufacturing Institute Engages Austin-Area Manufacturers to Attract and Retain Veterans

Austin, Texas, November 28, 2017: On Wednesday, November 29, The Manufacturing Institute, in partnership with the Arconic Foundation, the Austin Regional Manufacturers Association and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, will bring Military to Manufacturing, a nationwide forum and talent recruitment effort, to the city. The effort takes aim at America’s manufacturing talent shortage by working to attract, hire and retain veterans for careers in Texas manufacturing. The forum will equip manufacturers in Texas with best practices to deepen their partnerships with local military bases and educational institutes serving veterans.

More than 80 percent of manufacturers report a talent shortage. Meanwhile, thousands of servicemen and women return home each month, possessing not only sound leadership, strong character and an exemplary work ethic, but also rigorous technical training and experience. Over the next decade, it is estimated that manufacturers will be unable to fill 2 million open positions due to the skilled labor gap. Military veterans have the skills and leadership training that manufacturers need in their workforce.

“Events like Military to Manufacturing expose companies to resources available right in their backyards on hiring and retaining veterans,” said Manufacturing Institute Executive Director Carolyn Lee. “Veterans contain the skills manufacturers need and therefore reduce training expenses and enhance job productivity. It’s a win–win to hire veterans and build the manufacturing talent pipeline.”

“Arconic and the Arconic Foundation are committed to supporting veterans in pursuit of manufacturing careers,” said Arconic Foundation Vice President of Global Communications and Program Development Suzanne van de Raadt. “Today’s manufacturing industry offers careers in which veterans can and do succeed, and their military experience and background translates to key skills manufacturers need.”

“The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce is a major advocate of connecting veterans and their families with the growing manufacturing industry in Central Texas. With an area unemployment rate of 2.6 percent and signs of a labor market getting tighter, there is a great opportunity today for local companies to invest in recruiting veteran talent. Based on the Austin Chamber’s years of support to military veterans and families transitioning into jobs, we
continue to see a welcoming environment from both public and private employers. In fact, Austin is ranked this year by WalletHub as the ‘Best Place for Veterans to Live,’” said Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Talent Kwee Lan Teo.

“Attracting talent is the number-one challenge facing regional manufacturers. This initiative, coupled with the respect that our industry has for veterans and the skills they bring to the workplace, makes for an exciting opportunity,” said Austin Regional Manufacturers Association Executive Director Ed Latson.

“The manufacturing industry has tremendous need for personally reliable, vetted, highly skilled employees; who are accustomed to hard work, solving complex problems and performing to the most demanding standards. Soldiers transitioning from the Army are the solution to the manufacturing industries need” said Colonel Hank Perry, the US Army Garrison Commander of Fort Hood, Texas.

The Military to Manufacturing event will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Norris Conference Centers – Austin.

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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 nonpartisan 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](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).