Challenge

Where once strong backs and hard work sufficed, today’s manufacturing depends more than ever before on smart minds and an agile workforce. Over 80% of manufacturers reported moderate to serious skills shortages of skilled talent.

This challenge will only grow as the demographics of our workforce drive “boomer” retirements, technological advances require higher level of training, and our education system continues to lack a focus on STEM education.

The bottom line is that in order to compete in the global marketplace, manufacturers need a skilled talent pipeline.

Action

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 a system of stackable credentials that can apply to all sectors in the manufacturing industry. These credentials validate the skills and competencies needed to be productive and successful in any manufacturing environment.

The system was designed with the input of small, medium, and large manufacturers and builds off of nearly 10 years of experience in projects that have proven to work. It was designed by and for industry, and endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Industry certifications link education and work, ensuring graduates have the skills required for jobs in today’s manufacturing economy.

Why

The Skills Gap

- More than 70% of manufacturers report that this skills gap has negatively impacted their company’s ability to expand operations due to additional costs in downtime, overtime and cyclertime.
- The skills gap is costing manufacturers up to 11% reduced earnings
- 69% of manufacturers expect the shortage in skilled production to worsen in the next 3-5 years.
- 3 out of 10 parents would encourage their kids into manufacturing as a career.
- Over 90% of companies that use industry-recognized certifications believe they make a difference in validating the skills of their employees.

“Just as every company engineers its product line, its supply chain, and its production processes, so can you engineer a talent pipeline.”

- Jennifer McNelly
  President

Certifications Issued Since 2011

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