

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Institute Releases New Report on State Responses to the Skills Gap

The Manufacturing Institute released a report recounting successful state policies advancing manufacturing education

WASHINGTON, November 6, 2014: Today, The Manufacturing Institute released a new report “State Responses to the Skills Gap: Successful Policies Advancing Industry Credentials and Manufacturing Education.” The report details how state education policies play a significant role in enabling students to acquire work-ready skills.

The report covers a variety of state policies on industry credentials at the secondary and postsecondary levels, industry partnerships to better align curriculum and work-based learning opportunities, credit articulation, dual enrollment, and comprehensive state strategies. This report illustrates that a manufacturing sector requires a cohesive workforce development strategy involving public and private interests to build a pipeline of skilled workers. Eliminating barriers and providing incentives for institutions and companies to assist students in the acquisition of those skills should be the goal of state policymakers.

As the economy changed over the last decade, so too have expectations of both employers and students as to what secondary and postsecondary institutions should provide students in order to succeed in the workplace. “State Responses to the Skills Gap” promotes the use of dual enrollment, encourages articulation agreements between institutions, and identifies solutions such as industry-based credentials that make manufacturing education programs stronger and more attractive.

“We have placed a priority on understanding the conditions for success in attracting and growing the manufacturing workforce,” said Gardner Carrick, vice president of Strategic Initiatives. “This report shows how state education policy plays a critical role in developing a manufacturing pipeline.”

The Institute promotes a selection of state policies in the report in hopes they will be replicated by other states following these innovative and successful initiatives.

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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.