

## PRESS RELEASE

### Over \$14 million in Funding Announced for Aviation Education Programs

*Support will help increase the number of individuals with industry-based certifications that make them eligible for in-demand manufacturing jobs*

**Washington, D.C., September 20, 2012:** The United States Department of Labor announced yesterday over \$14 million in funding for the National Aviation Consortium (NAC). The NAC positions aviation employers as the central driving force in identification and standardization of required competencies and skills to help close the skills gap being experienced by the aviation industry. NAC will provide accelerated training to over 2500 students to fill current jobs in five states representing 35 counties. The funding is part of the \$500 million 2012 Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grants Program awards.

Access to talented individuals with a high-quality education and advanced skills is critical to the aviation industry's capacity for innovation and business success. "With the skills gap in manufacturing at an all-time high, and 600,000 jobs going unfilled as a result, this grant will enable students to earn the skills they need to access and advance in aviation jobs," said Jennifer McNelly, president, The Manufacturing Institute. "It will also support schools in building quality, relevant aviation programs that offer individuals industry-based certifications."

NAC has established public-private partnerships in support of this effort with employers, educators, and public sector leaders, building on the previous success of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System, designed by The Manufacturing Institute.

In support of this effort, the National Center for Aviation Training's managing partner, Wichita Technical College (Kansas) will be the lead institution for the NAC project. Consortium partners include lead colleges from four additional aviation manufacturing communities: Tulsa Community College (Oklahoma); Guilford Technical College (North Carolina); Edmonds Community College (Washington); and, Ivy Tech Community College (Indiana). The Manufacturing Institute is the key national partner, representing industry stakeholders.

This funding amplifies early work of the Institute in several communities, funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education.

### **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 for American manufacturing on the attraction, qualification, and development of world-class talent. Visit [www.themanufacturinginstitute.org](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).