
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Military to Manufacturing: Forum Event to Encourage Hiring Veterans

Manufacturing Institute Engages Charlotte-Area Manufacturers to Attract and Retain Veterans

Charlotte, N.C., December 6, 2017: On Thursday, December 7, The Manufacturing Institute, in partnership with Arconic Foundation, Sealed Air Corporation, and BDO, will bring Military to Manufacturing, a nationwide forum and talent recruitment effort, to Charlotte. The effort takes aim at America's manufacturing talent shortage by working to attract, hire and retain veterans for careers in North Carolina manufacturing. The forum will equip manufacturers in North Carolina 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 possess 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 Arconic Foundation are committed to supporting veterans in pursuit of manufacturing careers," said Suzanne van de Raadt, Vice President, Global Communications and Program Development, Arconic Foundation. "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."

"Sealed Air is committed to supporting our military veterans to ensure a smooth transition into civilian life," said Jim Whaley, Sealed Air VP, Global Corporate Communications, Government Affairs and Sustainability. "We believe key partnerships advance solutions to 'create a better way for life' and proudly support the National Association of Manufacturers and The Manufacturing Institute."

“The demands of Industry 4.0 are driving a fundamental change in the makeup of the manufacturing workforce—one that’s creating a widening skills gap that military veterans can help fill,” said Rick Schreiber, Partner and National Leader of the Manufacturing & Distribution practice at BDO USA. “BDO is dedicated to supporting veteran employment in the private sector and helping our manufacturing clients find and grow the talent they need to be successful in this new era of digitization.”

“Siemens’ commitment to hiring and integrating veterans into our workforce has never been stronger, and events like Military to Manufacturing help us ensure former service members remain a key pillar of our success,” said Kevin Poet, Director of Operations for Siemens Charlotte Energy Hub. “Our veteran-employees are invaluable to Siemens, leveraging the high-tech skills, strong technical background, mission-driven work ethic, and proven leadership experience they gained in the military to help Siemens strengthen U.S. manufacturing and lead the digital economy.”

The Military to Manufacturing event will take place from 8 – 11 a.m. at Sealed Air Corporation.

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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.