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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Rhode Island Manufacturers Join Dream It. Do It. Network

Manufacturers Join National Effort to Change Image of Manufacturing for Youth

Providence, RI, May 15, 2014: The Rhode Island Manufacturers Association officially launched Dream It. Do It. Rhode Island today, joining a national network focused on changing the image of manufacturing for the next generation of workers.

“Young people today want not only a great job, but a meaningful career,” said Bill McCourt, Executive Director of RIMA. “Rhode Island manufacturers are joining together as never before to speak with one voice about the opportunity in our industry.”

The announcement headlined RIMA’s annual meeting in Warwick, which included more than 250 local manufacturers and policymakers including House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello and Education Commissioner Deborah Gist. The keynote speaker was Brent Weil, senior vice president for education and workforce at The Manufacturing Institute, affiliated with the National Association of Manufacturers.

“I applaud Rhode Island’s manufacturers for this bold step,” Weil said. “To succeed, we must work together as an industry, and RIMA is a driving force making that happen.” He added that companies in Rhode Island can establish internship programs, work with the Community College of Rhode Island, New England Institute of Technology and local technical schools and set up structured training programs to help talented people enter into manufacturing.

Established in 2005, Dream It. Do It. acts as the grassroots authority on influencing the perception of manufacturing careers by leveraging local, regional and statewide strategic partnerships to attract and recruit a qualified manufacturing workforce pipeline. Dream It. Do It. consists of a network of industry leaders that develop promote manufacturing activities customized to their community’s needs.

Organizations interested in learning more about this effort can visit www.dreamitdoit.com.

About The Manufacturing Institute

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501(c)(3) affiliate of the National Association of 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.