

## Providing competency-based, customized education and training for the manufacturing workforce...today and tomorrow.

Access to talented individuals with a high-quality education and advanced skills is critical to manufacturers' capacity for innovation and business success. In recent studies, companies report they cannot find individuals with the skills required for today's advanced manufacturing workplaces. And this challenge will only grow as the demographics of our workforce drive "Boomer" retirements and replacement requirements. The technology infusion and high productivity that dominate the advanced manufacturing landscape demand a smart, safe, and sustainable manufacturing workforce. This requires individuals with professionalism, applied science, technology, math, and engineering skills, as well as a holistic knowledge of manufacturing principles, which enable them to advance with the evolution of new business processes. The Manufacturing Institute responded by creating the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System to directly address the deficits in manufacturing education and training, which are limiting the pool of qualified candidates for high-quality manufacturing jobs.

The NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System is a system of stackable credentials applicable to all sectors in the manufacturing industry. These nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials validate the skills and competencies needed to be productive and successful in entry-level positions in any manufacturing environment, and can be learned and earned in secondary and postsecondary education. The credentialing partners that comprise the Skills Certification System are ACT, the American Welding Society, the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

The Skills Certification System is the benchmark standardized assessment of the critical workplace traits and occupational skills an individual needs to operate in the advanced manufacturing workplace driven by productivity and flexibility. It confirms both technical and non-technical skills, assuring that an individual has both the "book smarts" and the "street smarts" to function in a high-paced manufacturing environment. The result is a professional technical manufacturing workforce with valuable industry credentials, making companies more innovative, more competitive, and more marketable.

By using the Skills Certification System to benchmark the skills of an incoming workforce, and advance those of the current workforce, manufacturers are proactive in ensuring a long legacy for their companies for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Emily Stover DeRocco  
President  
The Manufacturing Institute