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OCTOBER 16, 2014

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## **Virginia Expands Get Skills to Work To Support Veterans for Manufacturing Careers**

***Virginia Western Community College, ECPI University Provide Accelerated Training for Veterans***

**NEWPORT NEWS, VA, Oct. 16, 2014** - Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA), in partnership with The Manufacturing Institute and GE (NYSE: GE), today announced expanded training for veterans through the Get Skills to Work program. Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) established a new training in manufacturing fundamentals that incorporates the Manufacturing Skills Institute's Manufacturing Technician 1 (MT1). The training is designed to meet foundational needs of its manufacturers, and GE announced its support for training for veterans in recruiting for the GE Controls and Power Electronics plant in Salem, VA.

The partnership was announced at VMA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dream It Do It Virginia Symposium in Newport News. VWCC and ECPI University are the first two Virginia institutions to join Get Skills to Work. Get Skills to Work was founded by GE, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Alcoa, and today includes more than 600 manufacturers across the country. The program is managed by The Manufacturing Institute, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization affiliated with the National Association of Manufacturers.

Brett Vassey, President and CEO of VMA, also announced VMA's partnership with Get Skills to Work to support its members' recruitment of veterans with manufacturing skills. "Virginia's growing manufacturing sector offers great opportunities for veterans," Vassey said. "From electronics, to aerospace, to food processing, and more, we value the experience of veterans and are committed to training to support their transition into manufacturing." Working with The Manufacturing Institute, VMA will encourage its members to hire veterans and to connect with Get Skills to Work training institutions.

"Veterans are an enormous resource of manufacturing talent," said Brent Weil, Senior Vice President for Education and Workforce at The Manufacturing Institute. "Manufacturers value the experience and work ethic of our nation's veterans, and I commend VMA and its members for supporting just-in-time training pathways for veterans into manufacturing careers." Weil noted that MSI is one of just 15 organizations nationwide to be accepted into the Skills Certification System recognized by the National Association of Manufacturers.

"Our goal in education is to prepare the best possible workforce for our global economy. Aligning to the Manufacturing Skills Institute's Manufacturing Technician Level 1 certification only makes sense to ensure that industry knows what they are getting with our graduates," said Dan Horine, Instructor - Automated Manufacturing, VWCC.

Companies and veterans interested in joining this effort or learning more can visit <http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Initiatives/Military-and-Veterans/Military-and-Veterans.aspx>

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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](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).*

#### **About VMA**

*The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) develops and advocates for constructive public policies and supports a broad array of business services and programs to help ensure that Virginia manufacturing companies can be productive, profitable and competitive in Virginia. The Manufacturing Skills Institute is the training and education affiliate of the VMA. Virginia's 6,000+ manufacturers employ over 230,000 individuals, contribute \$41 billion to the gross state product, and account for over 86% of the state's exports to the global economy. For more about the VMA or MSI, please visit [www.vamanufacturers.com](http://www.vamanufacturers.com) or [www.manufacturingskillsinstitute.org](http://www.manufacturingskillsinstitute.org).*