



**For Immediate Release
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NACFAM CEO TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY ROLE IN RECRUITING & TRAINING MANUFACTURING TECHNICIANS

June 22, 2007 (Washington) – On Tuesday, Eric Mittelstadt, CEO of the National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM), testified before the House Science & Technology Subcommittee on Research and Science Education on “The Role of Community Colleges and Industry in Meeting the Demand for Skilled Production Workers and Technicians in the 21st Century Economy.”

He said that “Manufacturing production workers and technicians require increasing skills because of the growing use of automation, information technology, statistical quality control, lean, just-in-time delivery, etc. This added sophistication of production jobs is magnified by the impending shrinking of the US workforce due to the retirement of millions of “baby boomers” over the next decade. Thus the current and near-future outlook for graduates of technical training programs is excellent, even as increasing productivity continues to reduce the number of traditional manufacturing jobs, similar to agriculture in the previous century.”

“In the new paradigm of “*network-centric manufacturing*”, a new level of “*intense collaboration*” is required among OEMs and suppliers, as well as with labor, education and government. The future competitiveness of our nation depends upon the success of that “*intense collaboration*” stated Mittelstadt.

“Faced with the current and growing shortage of qualified technicians, many companies, their associations, and educational institutions are all taking multiple and collaborative steps to attract more students to careers as the skilled technicians required in production work in the 21st century. They are also increasingly partnering with community colleges to guide their tech-prep programs to address the required skill upgrades. These upgrades include STEM education even for production workers to enable them to most effectively use the advanced equipment and production techniques so essential to US manufacturing competitiveness in the hyper-competitive global economy of today and the future.”

For a complete copy of Mr. Mittelstadt’s remarks and background, please visit us on the web at <http://www.nacfam.org/pr.html>

For the House Subcommittee release, please visit <http://science.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1893>

The National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) is an industry-led, policy research organization, working collaboratively since 1989 with key leaders from industry, education, and government, to shape public policies and programs to make U.S. manufacturing globally competitive. It convenes its members and other key stakeholders to identify, research, formulate, and communicate proposals in a non-partisan, non-lobbying environment. Participants include small, medium and large manufacturing firms, associations, universities and community colleges, members of Congress and their staffs, federal agencies, and other organizations.