



**For Immediate Release
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**National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) Named
New Manufacturing Leader in NASDCTEc States' Career Clusters Initiative**

Last month, National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)/National Career Technical Education Foundation (NCTEF) and NACFAM finalized a key partnership committed to advancing education and training for the Manufacturing industry through the Manufacturing Career Cluster –a seamless educational system that blends academic and technical preparation, offers exposure to careers across the industry, and provides for career planning.

NACFAM, an industry-led, policy research organization since 1989, collaborates with key leaders from industry, education, and government, to shape public policies and programs to make U.S. manufacturing globally competitive. As Cluster Leader for the Manufacturing Career Cluster, NACFAM will represent the Manufacturing industry on this Leadership Committee. They will convene an Advisory Committee representative of all segments of the industry as well as state and local education leaders. With membership including small, medium and large manufacturing firms, associations, universities and community colleges, federal agencies, members of Congress and their staff members, NACFAM leadership promises powerful results.

Career clusters prepares learners of all ages for the information age as schools, colleges and employers strive for higher achievement in science, math and communication. The Manufacturing Career Cluster develops pathways to careers in planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering. The system seeks to develop relevant resources, assessments/certifications and instructional materials for each Career Cluster.

“The prosperity of U.S.-based manufacturing demands the highly-skilled workforce for which NASDCTEc strives and NACFAM has pledged to support,” explained Eric Mittelstadt, NACFAM CEO. “As businesses continue to think innovatively they require production workers with state of the art skills and ingenuity. Along with reading, writing, math, science, listening and speaking, they will need the workplace competencies of using the computerized manufacturing systems in today’s and tomorrow’s factories, gathering and analyzing the data from those systems, making decisions and judgments to optimize the process or machine, working in teams, analyzing and solving problems, planning the schedule or sequence of operations, and adapting to changing conditions, new equipment, etc.”

NACFAM’s historical dedication to workforce development for advanced manufacturing includes co-founding the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC), a non-profit educational organization which recently launched its nationwide certification system to assess worker skills and knowledge based on high-performance, industry-validated skill standards for manufacturing processes, quality assurance, maintenance awareness, and safety in all manufacturing sectors.

Any questions regarding NACFAM can be directed to Eric Mittelstadt at 202-429-2220, extension 109, or mittelstadte@nacfam.org.