



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **NACFAM BEGINS DIALOGUE TO DEFINE MANUFACTURING PRIORITIES FOR 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

*A New Education System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Network-Centric Manufacturing Value Chain  
and Transitional Research Get Top Billing*

**August 16, 2007 (Washington)** – On June 27-28, 2007, NACFAM convened manufacturers, educators, government, and association leaders to begin work to position manufacturing as a major national priority for the 2008 Presidential candidates. Keynote speaker, Governor John Engler, President of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) opened the conference recognizing that NACFAM and NAM share many of the same goals, but stated that most important goal we share is “simply telling manufacturing’s story, helping the public understand how much manufacturing contributes to the U.S. economy and the American way of life.”

NACFAM’s Advisory Councils (Workforce Education & Training, Technology & Innovation, and Supply/Value Chain Creation) began the process of identifying major issues and key policy recommendations in the areas of career and technical education (CTE), Network-Centric Manufacturing (NCM), technology and innovation, and sustainability.

Some of the key next steps identified by the Councils included:

- Developing a White Paper to spell out the basic elements of a **New Education System for America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, making Career and Technical Education even more an integral part of education for preparing students and workers for technical jobs opening up in the U.S. manufacturing sector.
- Brokering the creation and **support of transitional research initiatives** such as energy efficient manufacturing, interoperability, the model based enterprise, and wireless production networks.
- Shaping the policy and program initiatives to define a robust national infrastructure for the fast coming **Network-Centric Manufacturing** environment.
- Developing a plan to **grow sustainability knowledge within MEPs** as part of the necessary NCM infrastructure for competitiveness.

NACFAM CEO Eric Mittelstadt lauded the participants for “developing an excellent set of next steps toward ‘making manufacturing a National Priority’, the theme of the conference. At the same time, working on these next steps will improve the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing in tangible ways.” Over the next several months, NACFAM will be working with the Councils to execute these and other next steps identified in the report.

The full report, including the individual Council reports can be downloaded at [www.nacfam.org](http://www.nacfam.org). More information on the Councils is available at [www.nacfam.org/overview.html](http://www.nacfam.org/overview.html)

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The National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) mission, as an industry-led policy research organization, centers around brokering intense collaboration among its members and other key stakeholders to shape public policies and programs to make U.S. manufacturing globally competitive. NACFAM leads the research, prioritization, formulation, and dissemination of non-partisan, non-lobbying solutions to strengthen U.S. manufacturing. Members include small, medium and large manufacturing firms, manufacturing and educational associations, universities and community colleges, members of Congress and their staffs, federal agencies, and other non-profits.

NACFAM's policy initiatives seek to promote greater innovation and productivity within the nation's manufacturing sector, while recognizing federal government budget constraints. It focuses on four manufacturing policy and issue areas: Workforce Education & Training; Supply Chain Value Creation; Technology & Innovation; and Sustainable, Green Manufacturing. Visit [www.nacfam.org](http://www.nacfam.org) for more information.