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32 ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES JOIN NACFAM IN SUPPORTING AMERICA'S 21ST CENTURY LEARNING SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

November 4, 2008 (Washington, DC) – The National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) today announced that so far 32 national manufacturing trade associations and professional societies have agreed to support **America's 21st Century Learning System** recommendations developed by NACFAM's Workforce Education & Training Advisory Council at its spring Policy Conference and refined over several months since that event.

“In urging the adoption of these **Learning System** recommendations, these associations and societies are joining us in setting forth an **overarching policy statement** that calls for the development of a comprehensive learning system for American students and workers who must compete in an ever more complex 21st century global economy,” said Eric Mittelstadt, NACFAM CEO. “We are delighted to have the support and participation of these 32 national associations and societies.”

“The policy statement establishes the major **principles** of a Pre K – 16 **learning roadmap** that indicate what must be done at the federal, regional, state and local levels to improve and enhance the knowledge and skills students and workers need over the next generation in all sectors including the manufacturing sector, but especially in the STEM disciplines,” added Tony Girifalco, Executive Vice President of the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center in Philadelphia and chair of NACFAM's Workforce Education & Training Advisory Council.

“As businesses continue to think innovatively, they require production workers with state of the art skills and ingenuity. Along with *academic competencies* such as reading, writing, math, science, listening and speaking, workforce members must have *workplace competencies* in computerized manufacturing systems, gathering and analyzing data from these systems, making decisions and judgments to optimize their work, analyzing and solving technical problems, working on teams, and adapting to changes in workplace conditions,” said Eric Mittelstadt.

Key **Learning System** recommendations announced by NACFAM include:

- Validated and rigorous world-class learning standards, assessments and curricula for grades Pre K – 16.
- Applied learning in grades Pre K – 12 to help students better understand the relationship between what they learn in the classroom and what they do with this knowledge in postsecondary schools and their jobs or careers.
- Demonstrated mastery of academic *and* workplace competencies before high school seniors can receive their diplomas.
- Strengthened career counseling for students in grades 7-12 to help ensure that graduates gain access to postsecondary schools or productive employment.
- Support of life-long learning and continuous skill enhancement for all Americans from Pre K through retirement.

- Periodically review the learning paradigms to ensure the principles are achieved.

Mittelstadt observed, “The 32 trade associations and professional societies that have so far joined as signatories to **America’s 21st Century Learning System** recommendations represent several thousand manufacturing companies, 200 educational institutions, and 70,000 professionals engaged in manufacturing careers.”

The associations and societies include:

Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET)
 Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
 American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA)
 American Gas Association (AGA)
 American Machine Tool Distributors Association (AMTDA)

American Welding Society (AWS)
 AMT – The Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT)
 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
 Automation Technologies Council (ATC, RIA, AVA, MCA)
 Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

Composite Can & Tube Institute (CCTI)
 Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
 DSN Innovations (DSNI)
 Fabricators & Manufacturers Association (FMA)
 Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF)

Greater Philadelphia Engineering Deans Economic Development Council
 Integrated Manufacturing Technology Institute (IMTI)
 ISA – The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society (ISA)
 Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC)
 Material Handling Industry of America (MHIA)

Minnesota Center for Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence (MNCEME)
 Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
 National Center for Aerospace Leadership (NCAE)
 National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS)
 National Coalition for Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC)

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
 National Fluid Power Association (NFPA)
 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
 National Truck Equipment Association (NTEA)
 Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)

The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI)
 South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)

Mittelstadt concluded, “If these recommendations are to help students and workers acquire the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the global marketplace, **Learning System** supporters and decision makers must collaborate as soon as possible and on a continuing basis at the national, regional, state and local levels. NACFAM will do all it can to promote the Learning System roadmap with the Presidential candidates, Congress, the new Administration and the state governors in the coming weeks and months; the future of our great nation is at stake.”

NACFAM is a non-partisan non-lobbying action/think tank brokering intense collaboration among industry, education, government and non-profits to devise public and private sector

policies and programs to make U.S.-based manufacturers more globally competitive in the four manufacturing ing areas of Process Technology & Innovation, Workforce Education & Training, Supply Chain Relationships, and Sustainable Manufacturing.