

## **Building Blocks of Nationwide Strategy to Close Manufacturing Skills Gap**

In addition to essential programs at the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education and initiatives by numerous individual corporations, various national organizations, mostly non-profits, have been developing high quality programs over the years that can contribute to a Trump Administration-led nationwide strategy to close the manufacturing skills gap.

In MSSC's experience, it takes a community of organizations to implement successful workforce skills development programs. While most of these programs are nationwide, they all can be customized to meet local requirements.

### **MANUFACTURING-SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS**

*National Association of Manufacturers.* NAM and affiliated Manufacturing Institute have long played a strong leadership role in workforce development e.g. National Skill Standards Act; NAM-endorsed Skills Certification System; Dream It! Do It! and the new Heroes MAKE America for Vets.

*NAM-endorsed Skills Certification System of stackable certifications founded by:* ACT, MSSC, NIMS, AWS and SME.

*State Manufacturing Associations.* Support state legislation on behalf of workforce development and interface with technical education state agencies and schools.

*MSSC:* Provides industry-wide national skill standards, updated annually, and related MSSC Certified Production Technician (CPT) training & certification through colleges and secondary schools nationwide.

*Apprenticeships:* NIMS, AWS and MSSC have apprenticeship programs, most of which integrate their industry certifications.

*Amatol:* Leading U.S. manufacturer of technical training equipment, including colorful, portable "Skill Boss" trainer that will attract high schoolers and provide low-cost hands-on testing and training.

### **RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

*Community Colleges:* Play a key role in vocational training. Especially helpful are more centralized state tech college systems, such as Ivy Tech College System in IN, WI Tech College System, and AL CC System.

*ACT:* WorkKeys' National Career Readiness Certificates provide a strong foundation of work readiness skills that help students achieve much higher scores in certification-related assessments.

*Advance CTE and ACTE:* Representing, respectively, state CTE Directors and CTE Educators, these organizations do outstanding job of strengthening policies and programs for vocational training.

*National Network of Business and Industry Associations:* Covers economy-wide workplace soft skills, the National Network has published a valuable set of "Common Employability Skills".

*SkillsUSA:* Partnership of students, teachers and industry to ensure America has a skilled workforce and to help each student excel. More than 335,000 students and instructors annually.