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October 12, 2017

Greetings Vermont Manufacturer,

Recently, you may have participated in an online *Manufacturing Workforce Credential Survey* that was publicized by VMEC and sponsored by the **National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) through the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)**. VMEC is part of the MEP National Network. The Survey was designed to support a study examining the quality, market value, and effectiveness of manufacturing credentials. The study is being conducted in partnership with Workcred (an affiliate of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)) and will contribute to the body of knowledge for manufacturing-related skills credentials and should help identify skill gaps that could be filled by new credentials

The study project would like to gain more in-depth information about how credentials are being used (or not) in manufacturing facilities, and gather input on what new or improved credentials may be needed. **We are asking for continuing support for this effort from manufacturers by participating, if possible, in one of 10 virtual focus groups.** Please consider committing one individual from your organization, such as the CEO, HR director, line supervisor or other professionals who engage with hiring and managing individuals in your workplace.

MEP has scheduled ten (10) 1.5 hour Focus Group sessions via WebEx web link. We ask that you consider Registering for 1 session. Registration is limited for each session. Please consider helping this important effort.

You may choose one of the following dates and times. A link will take you to the registration site.

- [October 16, 2-3:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 17, 12-1:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 18, 10-11:30 am ET](#)
- [October 19, 3-4:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 23, 3-4:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 24, 12-1:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 25, 9-10:30 am ET](#)
- [October 25, 3-4:30 pm ET](#)
- [October 31, 2-3:30 pm ET](#)
- [November 1, 12-1:30 pm ET](#)

Thank you for supporting this study. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please contact NIST MEP directly at mary.pacelli@nist.gov and be sure to copy VMEC at vmec@vmec.org.

Bob Zider, VMEC Director and CEO



*Providing Systems and Solutions to help Vermont Manufacturers
Innovate, Plan, Perform and Grow*

