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## PRESS RELEASE

### Manufacturing Institute Partners with Precision Machined Products Association to Address the Need for a Skilled Workforce

*New partnership with leading association will help alleviate critical skills gap crisis facing US manufacturers*

**WASHINGTON, DC, October 2, 2012** — The Manufacturing Institute has partnered with the [Precision Machined Products Association](#) (PMPA) to expand [Right Skills Now, a fast-track machining training program aligned to the National Association of Manufacturers \(NAM\)-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System](#). Right Skills Now and the Skills Certification System are successful programs that are building the educated and skilled workforce manufacturers need to successfully compete in the global economy.

Right Skills Now is an acceleration of the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System which awards nationally portable, industry recognized credentials that are combined with for-credit education programs for workforce candidates. Right Skills Now fast-tracks and focuses career training in core employability and technical skills for precision machining.

The NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System integrates nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials – and their learning standards and content – into high school, community college and 4-year college programs of study. Certifications that are part of the system comprise foundational academic, workplace, and technical skills as well as process and occupation-specific skills necessary for jobs across all sectors of the manufacturing economy.

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“Developing a skilled workforce is the greatest challenge facing our industry,” says Mike Duffin, Executive Director of PMPA. “PMPA is proud to partner with The Manufacturing Institute to continue to support the Right Skills Now program championed by our member, Darlene Miller of Permac Industries out of Burnsville, Minnesota. Together PMPA, The Manufacturing Institute, and partners of Right Skills Now will be making a difference to develop the skilled workforce we need to keep manufacturing competitive in North America.”

“In this highly competitive global market, our manufacturers’ business success is tied directly to their ability to innovate, and the single most important factor in their innovation capacity is an educated and skilled workforce,” said Jennifer McNelly, president, The Manufacturing Institute. “We now have a solution to help address the skills gap directly affecting the workforce pipeline for manufacturers. We are pleased to welcome PMPA as a partner in efforts to address the shortage of skilled workers in the United States.”

### **Context**

Results from the *2011 Skills Gap Report*, authored by *The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte*, show that over 80% of manufacturers are experiencing a moderate to serious shortage in skilled production talent, like machinists and technicians, and 60% have a similar shortage of production engineers. This national crisis is predicted to worsen in the coming years. To combat this talent crisis, the Institute identified several leading industry associations to serve as chief advocates for industry-recognized skills certifications.

### **About The Manufacturing Institute**

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501 (c) 3 affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. As a non-partisan organization, the Institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation's manufacturers. The Institute focuses on developing human capital strategies through education reform and workforce development, conducting applied research to provide critical information to public policy makers on challenges and opportunities for today's industry, and advancing the innovation capacity of manufacturers operating in a global market. Visit [www.themanufacturinginstitute.org](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).

### **About PMPA**

PMPA provides critical information and services to its member companies who make precision engineered, often safety critical components, for automotive, aerospace, medical, electrical, machinery, fluid power, and other industries. Services include providing timely notification of issues, regulations, and opportunities that affect the turned products industry.