



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Metro Manufacturing Alliance to Host Information Sessions Addressing the Manufacturing Workforce Skills Gap Following Minnesota Manufacturing Week

October 22, 2013 (Minneapolis) – On Tuesday, October 29 and Wednesday, October 30 the Metro Manufacturing Alliance will host two information sessions for Twin Cities Area manufacturing employers to learn about a new on-the-job training incentive program available from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). The sessions are a follow-up to Minnesota Manufacturing Week, a series of open house events taking place October 20-26, in manufacturing facilities, colleges, tech schools, and workforce centers to promote manufacturing careers. The sessions aim at providing solutions to close the manufacturing workforce skills gap.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education and Economic Development (DEED), one in nine jobs in Minnesota is currently in the manufacturing industry. Many manufacturers, however, are experiencing a shortage in finding skilled production workers. This skills gap is taking its toll on manufacturers' ability to expand operations, drive innovation, and improve productivity.

The NIMS incentive program will provide employers with a competency-based training, tracking, and reporting system in support of on-the-job training (OJT) of computer numerical control (CNC) machine tool operators. Employers who sign-up to participate in the NIMS OJT training will be able to customize a program that fits their specific timeline, equipment, and processes. They will also be able to establish a structured certification system that is understood among their production staff and attained through performance-based testing.

For employers who commit to hiring new employees who have been unemployed or underemployed for at least 27 weeks there are extra incentives including a \$4.00/hour wage subsidy for up to 520 hours (\$2,080) of work and free NIMS certified OJT trainer instruction. The overall incentive program is available through December 31, 2015.

"The grant subsidy is intended to encourage manufacturers to hire new employees by reducing training costs," said **Montez King NIMS Director of Credentialing**. "However, we've seen that once employers discover the NIMS competency based system enhances learning achievements throughout the shop, the value of the program far exceeds their expectations as their workforce skills gap challenges are addressed."

The first NIMS information session will take place **Tuesday, October 29, from 2:00 until 3:30 p.m.**, at Hennepin Technical College, located at 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park. The second session will take place on **Wednesday, October 30, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** at St. Paul College, located at 235 Marshall Ave, St. Paul. Montez King, NIMS Director of Credentialing will be presenting during both information session. It is suggested that Twin Cities area business managers and human resource professionals in advanced manufacturing with hiring needs in precision machining, metal forming, mold making, die casting, and welding and machine maintenance attend this informative session.

Registration is required by October 28. Registration is available through EventBrite for the October 29 session by following this [link](#) and for the October 30 session by following this [link](#). For more information, manufacturers can also contact Marie Larson at City of Minneapolis Employment and Training at 612.673.5292.

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About NIMS

NIMS was formed in 1995 by the metalworking trade associations to develop and maintain a globally competitive American workforce. NIMS sets skills standards for the industry, certifies individual skills against the standards and accredits training programs that meet NIMS quality requirements.

About the Metro Manufacturing Alliance

The Metro Manufacturing Alliance is a new collaborative formed by the Twin Cities Metro Workforce aimed at helping businesses to close the manufacturing skills gap by collectively developing flexible workforce solutions transforming human capital development.

About the City of Minneapolis Employment and Training

Minneapolis Employment and Training administers a variety of employment and training programs under the direction of the Mayor, City Council, and Minneapolis Workforce Council. Minneapolis Employment and Training is the administrative entity/staff to the Minneapolis Workforce Council. City programs under the oversight of the Workforce Council include services for low-income Adult, Dislocated Workers, MFIP recipients, and Youth. In Minneapolis, these services are delivered to job seekers and businesses by community-based organizations which have been competitively evaluated and selected based on their ability to effectively serve target groups and achieve employment-related outcomes, including both placement and support for retention in employment.

Minnesota Manufacturing Week

During Minnesota Manufacturing Week, October 20-26, select Minnesota Manufacturers will open their doors to the public to invite community members in for facility tours to promote working in modern manufacturing environments. Colleges, technical schools, and workforce training programs around the state will also be hosting open houses and sharing information about available career opportunities in the manufacturing sector. The events are being promoted by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association, Dream!t Do!t, and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. To learn more visit [here](#).