



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

National Institute of Metalworking Skills to Provide On-the-Job Training Incentive Program Focused on Closing Workforce Skills Gap in Minnesota **Two Information Sessions to be Held October 29 and 30** **by the Metro Manufacturing Alliance**

October 28, 2013 (Minneapolis) – On Tuesday, October 29 and Wednesday, October 30 the National Institute of Metal Working Skills (NIMS) Director of Credentialing Montez King will be in the Twin Cities Metro Area to present two information sessions on a new on-the-job training incentive program focused on closing the manufacturing workforce skills gap. The sessions are being hosted by the Metro Manufacturing Alliance at St. Paul College and Hennepin Technical College and are free to attend. They are designed for 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.

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 making their ability to expand operations, drive innovation, and improve productivity increasingly challenging.

The NIMS incentive program will provide employers with a competency-based training, tracking, and reporting system in support of on-the-job training 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 training needs including selecting the timeline in which to complete the training, focusing on their own equipment and processes.

"The NIMS 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 our 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 program offers extra incentives to employers who commit to hiring new employees who have been unemployed or underemployed for at least 27 weeks 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 program is available through December 31, 2015.

The first 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.

Registration is available online 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.