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New Skill Up for Manufacturing Program Will Expedite Training and Job Placement

NEW HAVEN, CT (November 26, 2018) – In an effort to expand Connecticut’s manufacturing workforce pipeline and connect qualified candidates to thousands of unfilled employment opportunities, Workforce Alliance is launching Skill Up for Manufacturing. The free five-week training and job placement program is now open to high school graduates and Connecticut residents 18 years or older who are underemployed or unemployed.

The application deadline for the first Skill Up for Manufacturing session is December 7, 2018 and interested candidates are encouraged to visit <http://www.workforcealliance.biz/skillup> and apply as soon as possible.

Skill Up for Manufacturing will quickly channel people into entry-level manufacturing jobs by providing the fundamentals that employers need in just five weeks. The first training class begins Feb. 4 and ends March 8, 2019 at Gateway Community College. Accepted participants will attend classes six hours per day, five days a week. Individual job search assistance is available during and after the training program. Manufacturing industry employers will have direct hire opportunities, access to hiring incentives and expect to continue training on-the-job.

Interested applicants get started by applying online, completing a Manufacturing Skills Inventory Session at the American Job Centers in New Haven and Meriden, and creating or uploading a resume. Applicants who do not score sufficiently on the initial Skills Inventory of shop math, spatial reasoning and basic ruler reading will be invited to a refresher and can retake the assessment.

Manufacturers participating in Skill Up for Manufacturing to date include Penn Globe, PTA Plastics, Wepco Plastics, Inc., Brooks & Whittle Packaging Solutions and the New Haven Manufacturers Association. Course work was developed in close coordination with participating manufacturers and includes basic trade knowledge, workplace skills and production readiness including shop math fundamentals and semi-precise/precise measurement.

Workforce Alliance is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce in South Central CT. This program is based on the successful model of the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative, which has placed more than 1,000 people into good manufacturing jobs over the past three years and resulted in approximately \$37 million in direct

annual wages and roughly \$38 million in indirect annual wages. Seventy-eight percent of those placed in Eastern CT had no prior manufacturing experience.

The first Skill Up session is fully funded and can accept 20 students. Subsequent sessions are planned for 2019 in anticipation of continued funding availability. Support services are available to participants while in classroom training including travel reimbursement, daycare assistance and required books, tools and clothing. Additionally, there is a cash stipend awarded to participants for successful completion of training benchmarks.

Skill Up for Manufacturing is a program of Workforce Alliance and is currently funded by U.S. Department of Labor through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (CT's Jobs First Employment Services).

About Workforce Alliance

Workforce Alliance is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce in South Central CT, which comprises 30 towns. Board members include business owners, local elected officials and community leaders in order to meet changing local needs and shifting national economic and workforce trends. Services are primarily funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act for low-income adults, dislocated workers and youth; and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families which mandates employment activities to help people become independent of cash assistance. Workforce Alliance oversees four American Job Center South Central CT locations in New Haven, Meriden, Middletown and Hamden. For more information visit workforcealliance.biz

South Central CT includes 30 towns: Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge.

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