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**New Century Careers to expand free machinist training to McKeesport;
*Trainees job-ready for in-demand jobs in just months***

Pittsburgh, PA -- May 13, 2019 – New Century Careers will celebrate its 20th anniversary with the announcement of the expansion of its popular MANUFACTURING 2000 (M2K) training program to be housed in the newly repurposed Tube City Center for Business and Innovation in McKeesport. The center, at 409 Walnut Street, is the former home of the *McKeesport Daily News*. The community is invited to an open house hosted by New Century Careers at the Center on Thursday, June 13, from 2-4 p.m. with ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m.

McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko describes New Century Careers as a welcomed addition to Tube City Center because of the program's enduring record of excellence in matching qualified graduates with employment opportunities. "The Mon Valley is still a thriving region for manufacturing jobs, and we can train young workers right here in McKeesport to be ready for in-demand, family-wage jobs across our region," Mayor Cherepko adds. "I see enormous potential to attract trainees to McKeesport, as it is the hub of the Valley."

New Century Careers joins first tenants the Allegheny County District Attorney's Mon Valley Support Center, the *Mon Valley Independent* newspaper, Tube City Community Media, Flashover Fire Apparatus and Equipment, and Point Park University's Center for Media Innovation.

"With demand for machinists consistently unmet as regional manufacturers struggle to find qualified workers to fill vacancies, New Century Careers continuously searches for cost-effective methods to train and place more students with regional employers. We explored many sites with the personal help of Mayor Cherepko including the Tube City Center space, which is ideal for our program," says Paul Anselmo, NCC president and CEO.

M2K is a short-term pre-apprenticeship program which is offered at no cost to qualified job seekers. NCC recruits, screens, tests, trains and places high school graduates 18 and older in entry-level machinist jobs that lead to career pathways with family-sustaining wages. Potential students are screened for interest and aptitude to learn, including those with pre-existing education and employment barriers.

Enrollment is now open for the first class of trainees at the McKeesport site.

M2K offers advantages for both workers in need of jobs and employers with immediate and critical gaps in filling positions.



“This M2K “quick train” program marks the first time NCC is offering a program that is 125 hours to be completed in just five weeks. It introduces trainees to the skills needed to pursue in-demand manufacturing jobs,” Anselmo explains. It offers flexibility for manufacturers that seek to identify job candidates with interest and aptitude to fill a variety of positions requiring additional on the job training, including machine operators.

Trainees who wish to expand on their machining skills will have the option to train for an additional 475 hours at NCC’s Training Innovation Center on Pittsburgh’s South Side.

The M2K program expansion to McKeesport is funded by grants from PNC Foundation, GC Murphy Company Foundation and PAsmart.

“Labor & Industry is proud to support this pre-apprenticeship training program through PAsmart grant funding,” said Pennsylvania Labor and Industry Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. “Governor Wolf wants workers to get the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century and for Pennsylvania businesses to have access to a world-class workforce. Through PAsmart, we’re improving access to education, apprenticeships and training programs for students and workers.”

M2K is the original NCC training program developed in partnership with local manufacturers when New Century Careers was founded two decades ago. Since then, a complement of programs has been added to create a pathway to career advancement for both trainees and incumbent workers and a pipeline of skilled workers for manufacturers.

The road begins in high schools through the Southwestern PA BotsIQ Program that teaches STEM skills through the building of battling robots. The MANUFACTURING 2000 PLUS program provides specialized training to manufacturers whose incumbent workers require up-skilling in technical competencies to optimize equipment usage and meet business goals.

New Century Careers also has teamed up with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) to provide manufacturers and individuals with a proven metalworking apprenticeship related instruction program. In 2018, NCC launched their own state and federally approved Group Non-Joint apprenticeship program as well as having MANUFACTURING 2000 approved as a registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program by the state. NCC continues to expand training through apprenticeship as they plan to register a brand new Robotics Technician Apprenticeship with the state later this year.

The New Century Job Shop, a training experience supported by real-world component contracts earned from manufacturing companies throughout the region was also launched in 2018. Trainees are supported by learning enhanced skills which aids in acquiring entry-level careers while helping local manufacturers...and earning income to support their non-profit mission.



Over 20 years, New Century Careers has helped hundreds of individuals begin rewarding careers in manufacturing and helped to train thousands of incumbent workers to expand critical skills helping our region to remain one of the most competitive in the nation.

NCC's enrollment and trainings are open year round. Training generally is completed in several weeks with daytime and evening options. Those interested in training at either the McKeesport or Pittsburgh site or companies seeking skilled workers, can find additional information at www.ncsquared.com or call 1-800-822-9337.

About New Century Careers

New Century Careers (NCC) contributes to the economic health of southwestern Pennsylvania through meeting manufacturing workforce needs by working to deliver a capable workforce to employers of the region. NCC seeks to improve the lives of individuals through the development of skills that lead to good quality, family wage jobs and careers. NCC was established in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is currently celebrating 20 years of service to the community. For more information, visit www.ncsquared.com.

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