



## **New Century Careers to launch two-year Robotics Technician Apprenticeship Program**

*Pittsburgh, PA – June 16, 2021* -- New Century Careers (NCC) will launch a two-year registered apprenticeship program to focus on automation and robotics for the job role robotics technician with a virtual information session on Tuesday, June 22, at 10 a.m. NCC plans to enroll 10 apprentices in the first cohort to start in July.

“As more and more companies in the Pittsburgh region invest and deploy robotics and automation solutions to meet their customers’ demands, the need for highly skilled technicians to operate and maintain these systems is critical to the long-term success of both existing companies and recent start-ups,” stated Neil Ashbaugh, president and CEO of New Century Careers. “Candidates trained to fill these advanced manufacturing positions can secure jobs with significant growth potential,” Ashbaugh added.

In 2018, with a grant awarded by Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing, a Manufacturing USA Institute, NCC partnered with Catalyst Connection, Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), and Tooling-U/SME to develop the program. It was based on a survey of over 300 small- and medium-sized companies to assess their interest and ability to incorporate this new technology into their manufacturing processes. The study findings found that in addition to purchasing the equipment or systems, highly-skilled technicians would be a key component.

After a year of one-on-one meetings with several local manufacturers, the program was developed and approved by the Pennsylvania State Apprenticeship Council and was formally recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and the US Department of Labor.

The program will offer related theory and instruction courses provided by CCAC, including safety, hydraulics, programmable logic controllers, robotics, electrical, and mechanical training. At the employer’s site, apprentices also will use Tooling-U online training modules and work to achieve proficiency in 80-plus on-the-job competencies that will be monitored by the apprentice and the apprentice’s supervisor.

Ashbaugh encourages any company of any size in need of training for employees to deploy robotics in their business to register for the June 22 session. “During this session, companies can learn how the robotics technician program can affordably add in-house skills not only to create products but also to maintain equipment and safety, reducing costs and lost productivity.”

Companies in any sector interested in the NCC certified robotics technician apprenticeship program should contact Eric Pferdekamper at [pferdekamper@nsquared.com](mailto:pferdekamper@nsquared.com) or (412) 745-1014 for more information and to register for the free virtual event.

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***About New Century Careers*** : *New Century Careers is a nonprofit manufacturer and technical skills development organization serving the Southwestern Pennsylvania region through inclusive access to technical training opportunities while helping employers find and develop technicians seeking purpose, passion and success in the workplace. [www.ncsquared.com](http://www.ncsquared.com)*