



NCC marks Manufacturing Month with focus on advanced manufacturing workforce development

Pittsburgh, PA – Oct. 4, 2021 -- As more regional companies invest in and deploy robotics and automation solutions, New Century Careers will use October, National Manufacturing Month, to highlight training opportunities for plentiful jobs in the ever-evolving advanced manufacturing field.

A centerpiece of NCC's observance is the installation of new high-tech machines – the Haas ST-10Y with FANUC robot and the TRAK EVO-T 3D printer -- in the NCC Anselmo Training Innovation Center, South Side.

The Haas ST-10Y with FANUC robotic arm transforms NCC's already robust capabilities to train students for jobs in the robotics field.

The ST-10Y adds high performance lathe capacity and programming for mill and lathe on a single machine, creating versatile done-in-one machining solutions. Secondary milling operations on the lathe boost throughput and increase accuracy.

The FANUC robot is a fully integrated, plug-and-play, 7 kg capacity robot system for Haas machines operated entirely from the Haas control.

At the Pittsburgh location, TRAK Machine Tools, an industry leader in innovative products for toolrooms, offers regional manufacturers and TRAK prospects and customers in central and western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and eastern Ohio demonstrations of TRAK machines and comprehensive support for TRAK® and ProtoTRAK® products performed by a factory direct personnel.

"NCC is said to be one of just a few nonprofit training centers in the country to have these capabilities. Using this advanced technology in their training, NCC enrollees will be job-ready in months, not years, for the job openings robotics is adding to the local economy as well as hundreds of other manufacturing positions with career tracks," says Neil Ashbaugh, NCC president and CEO.

In response to this workforce need, NCC also is now recruiting its first cohort for its new Registered Robotics Technician Apprenticeship focused on automation and robotics for the job role of robotics technician. Enrollees can complete journeyworker training in as little as two years.

With a grant from Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing, a Manufacturing USA Institute, NCC partnered with Catalyst Connection, Community College of Allegheny County, and Tooling-U/SME for program development, with input from local manufacturers. The robotics technician program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Apprenticeship Council and formally recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and the US Department of Labor.

Lawrence M. Hayhurst, new training/facility manager, whose experience includes work at Carnegie Mellon University and the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute in Pittsburgh, joined the NCC staff in September.

New Century Careers (NCC) also opened its year-round entry-level MANUFACTURING 2000 (M2K) machinist training program at Eastern Westmoreland Career and Technology Center (EWCTC) in Derry Township.

Enrollment is underway there for evening classes (Monday-Friday) offering flexible options to accommodate students and working adults, those underemployed or unemployed due to the pandemic, and those seeking career options. Day and evening M2K classes also enroll year-round at the NCC training center on Pittsburgh's South Side.

Through this tuition-free M2K short-term pre-apprenticeship program, 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 trainees are screened for interest and aptitude to learn, including those with pre-existing education and employment barriers. Resume and placement assistance matches trainees to open positions among over 200 NCC partner companies in the region.

The Allegheny Conference's "Inflection Point 2017-2018: Supply, Demand and the Future of Work in the Pittsburgh Region" reports that Pittsburgh's 10-county regional workforce will come up short 80,000 workers by 2025. Catalyst Connection's "Manufacturing Employment Demand Study" projects that 30,000 manufacturing jobs may need to be filled in southwestern Pennsylvania in the next 10 years.

"In order to fill these gaps, New Century Careers engages with local manufacturers, colleges, and various consortia who contribute to the development of robust training curricula that reflects the latest industry standards," Ashbaugh notes. "That's been our mission for more than two decades."

For information on NCC training programs, visit www.ncsquared.com/programs

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About New Century Careers: Pittsburgh-based 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