

**New Century Careers promotes manufacturing career advancement
during National Apprenticeship Week Nov. 15-21**

Pittsburgh, PA – Nov. 15, 2021 -- New Century Careers is celebrating National Apprenticeship Week November 15-21, recruiting candidates for its new registered robotics technician apprenticeship as well as hosting a webinar to showcase the impact apprenticeships have on building the region's workforce and to promote this option for career advancement the evolving maker industry.

The November 17 webinar from 1-2 p.m. is entitled "Apprenticeship Advantages for Individuals and Employers: A Conversation with Industry Leaders." The session will explore how these unique work-based "earn and learn" training programs offer a competitive advantage for both individuals and employers, by filling open jobs, improving productivity and profitability, and reducing turnover while providing the regional workforce with pathways to career advancement or new opportunities in evolving industry sectors.

Webinar discussants are

- John Tkach, Executive Director, Keystone Development Partnership
- Mara Peduto, Consultant, Workforce Development, Catalyst Connection
- Neil Ashbaugh, President and CEO, New Century Careers

Stephen Catt, Ed.D., President, Workforce K2Gray, will serve as moderator.

The session is free but [registration is required](#).

National Apprenticeship Week was established by the U.S. Department of Labor to bring together leading business, labor, education, apprentices, and other critical partners to showcase the impact Registered Apprenticeship programs have on building the American workforce, re-building the economy, advancing racial and gender equity, and supporting underserved communities.

"We are proud to support National Apprenticeship Week. Registered Apprenticeship is a proven pathway that enables employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering individuals affordable paths to secure high-paying careers in manufacturing," said Neil Ashbaugh, New Century Careers president and CEO.

U.S. Department of Labor sources report that:

- 92% of apprentices retain employment after completing a Registered Apprenticeship program.
- The average starting wage after completing a Registered Apprenticeship program is \$72,000.
- Workers who complete Registered Apprenticeship programs earn \$300,000 more over a career than their peers who don't.
- Apprentices earn while they learn, reducing the potential to take on debt.

Earlier this year New Century Careers launched a two-year registered apprenticeship program to focus on automation and robotics for the job role robotics technician and is currently recruiting candidates. 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.

The program offers 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.

"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. "Candidates trained to fill these advanced manufacturing positions can secure jobs with significant growth potential," he added.

Ashbaugh encourages companies of any industry or size in need of training for employees to deploy robotics to contact NCC to 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.

New Century Careers also works with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association to provide our region's manufacturers and individuals with a proven metalworking apprenticeship related instruction program.

This program is designed to provide related instruction classes to support on-the-job training provided by employers. Classroom training is offered at convenient locations in both Allegheny and Westmoreland counties. While the instruction is open to anyone who would like to register for this four-year program, apprentices who would like to earn their journeyman's papers must also be registered with his or her employer's qualified Pennsylvania apprenticeship program for on-the-job training.

Companies in any sector interested in the NCC robotics technician apprenticeship program should contact Eric Pferdekamper at pferdekamper@nsquared.com or (412) 745-1014 for more information.

##

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*