



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Larry Krause
Senior Public Info. Liaison
407-531-1222 ext. 208
LKrause@careersourcecf.com

FLORIDA TRADE EDUCATES STUDENTS TO FILL 4,000 MANUFACTURING JOBS

Orlando, FL – Students can earn an international certification to create computer programs for high-tech manufacturing that will fill a shortage of more than 4,000 jobs in Florida.

Students who enroll in the Florida TRADE (Transforming Resources for Accelerated Degrees and Employment) Advanced Manufacturing program will receive six months of instruction at Valencia College and job placement assistance from CareerSource Central Florida. They will gain on-the-job experience during a paid 12-week internship working with local manufacturing companies.

Graduates will be certified as production technicians and can also earn the internationally-recognized CNC (Computer Numeric Control) production specialist certification to fill jobs at Lockheed Martin, Mitsubishi Power Systems, Correct Craft and Metal Essence.

Those that pass the 10-week CNC class will be a certified level 1 specialist with the ability to run high-tech lathe and milling machines. There is a statewide shortage of people with CNC skills and many manufacturers struggle to find qualified candidates.

Carl Harris, program manager of advanced manufacturing at Valencia College, said manufacturing is the fastest-growing industry in Florida, which currently has more than 4,000 manufacturing jobs to be filled.

“Manufacturers have an aging workforce, especially the big ones like Lockheed Martin and Mitsubishi (Power Systems),” said Harris. “That aging skilled workforce needs to be replaced with workers that have the latest CNC skills. The jobs are there and this program will find a way to build the talent pool.”

Florida TRADE is a statewide training system for high-demand manufacturing jobs such as welders, machinists and technicians. The four-year federal grant will educate 200 people and pay up to \$8,400 per applicant for classes, books and certification testing. The program is funded

through a \$15 million Department of Labor grant to deliver technical training to students, displaced and unemployed workers, current workers who want to learn new skills and veterans who are transitioning back into the workforce.

“The addition of the internationally-recognized CNC certification increases the opportunities for graduates to land a job that will lead to a fulfilling career in high-tech manufacturing,” said Pamela Nabors, president and CEO of CareerSource Central Florida. “Our partnership with Valencia College helps educate our workforce with the skills businesses need to stay competitive.”

Those interested in the program are encouraged to visit www.careersourcecentralflorida.com/manufacturing for further information and to apply. Applicants must meet Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligibility requirements, which can be found at <http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com/WIA>. Enrollment is under way for classes, which start in May.

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CareerSource Central Florida offers tools to find jobs and advance careers for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties. On average, CareerSource Central Florida provides nearly 8,800 job seekers each month with services such as an online job bank, career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, career assessments and internships. CareerSource Central Florida also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com.

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