



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **STATEWIDE FLORIDA MANUFACTURING CAREER FAIR SET FOR APRIL 22 IN ORLANDO, APRIL 23 IN LAKE COUNTY**

**Orlando, FL** – Florida’s state colleges, manufacturers and regional workforce boards are teaming up to connect Floridians with great careers in advanced manufacturing. The Florida Manufacturing Career Fair on April 22 will be held at multiple venues across the state, and will give Floridians the opportunity to meet with local manufacturers.

CareerSource Central Florida will be hosting two Manufacturing Career Fair events in our Central Florida region between Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday April 23. The first will take place on April 22 from 1-4 p.m. in Orange County, at the CareerSource Central Florida East Orange Career Center, located at 4360 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. The second event will take place on April 23 from 1-4 p.m. in Lake County, at the Lake Square Mall, located at 10401 U.S. 441, Leesburg, FL 34788. The first hour of both events is designated for Florida Trade Students and Veterans.

The Career Fair brings together the Manufacturers Association of Florida; The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; the Florida TRADE Consortium, a coalition of 13 state and community colleges; and members of the CareerSource Florida network at the state and local levels to connect manufacturers who have job openings with qualified candidates.

“Manufacturers in Florida are growing and hiring,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of Florida. “They want employees looking for meaningful careers that make a difference in other’s lives. Today’s manufacturing is high skill and high wage. Those wages circulate through the economy improving the quality of life for all citizens.”

The Florida TRADE Consortium, a U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College & Career Training (TAACCCT) grantee, provides accelerated technical training that provides students with the skills needed to compete for jobs in advanced manufacturing.

“Our consortium colleges are located across the entire state of Florida,” said Dr. Gary Graham, Director of Florida TRADE. “The upcoming Manufacturing Career Fair will provide a great opportunity for our students to showcase their training and qualifications.”

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Jesse Panuccio said, “This will be an exciting event for Florida manufacturing businesses and jobseekers as Florida companies will be seeking employees for high-skill, high-wage jobs in manufacturing. Florida’s manufacturing industry ranks in the top 10 in the nation. By engaging an eager and experienced workforce with events such as the Florida Manufacturing Career Fair, we will continue to grow this industry in our state.”

The Florida Manufacturing Career Fair is a component of the “Drive to 1,000”, a Florida TRADE Consortium initiative to place 1,000 Florida TRADE students into manufacturing jobs over the next year;

however the Career Fair is open to all and may provide opportunities to anyone interested in a hands-on, high-tech career.

“Advanced Manufacturing is an important industry targeted for future growth in Florida,” said CareerSource Florida President and CEO Chris Hart IV. “CareerSource Florida is a proud partner in this collaborative effort to help Florida’s manufacturers expand and compete, and Floridians secure rewarding, well-paying careers.”

For more information about the Florida Manufacturing Career Fair including locations and times, please visit [www.mafmfg.com](http://www.mafmfg.com). For information about the Florida TRADE Consortium, visit [www.fltrade.org](http://www.fltrade.org).

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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, the organization 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. It also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit [www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com](http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com).*

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