



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2019

Contact: Tiffany Wallace

Phone: 512.597.7129

Email: tiffany.wallace@wfscapitalarea.com

New Manufacturing Partnership Shows Promise for Local Businesses and Career-Seekers

AUSTIN – Workforce Solutions Capital Area (Workforce Solutions) and the Austin Regional Manufacturing Association (ARMA) have partnered with Austin Community College (ACC) to launch a new pilot training program to prepare residents for high demand technical manufacturing jobs. On February 4, 2019, 14 students began a new production assistant training through ACC to become certified in manufacturing production through the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC).

The 14-week training program equips students with production-oriented competencies such as safety, quality practices and measurement, manufacturing production, and maintenance awareness. Graduates from the program will be qualified for entry-level production positions with the region's top manufacturers.

Local manufacturing companies guided the program's formation and are providing students with an eight-week paid internship. ARMA spearheaded engagement with the partner employers including AFP, Applied Materials, Athena Manufacturing, Community Impact Printing, Coreslab, Flex, Origen, TECO Westinghouse, and Versum. "The Certified Production training is a business-driven collaboration to help our region's manufacturers maintain their competitive edge," said Ed Latson, Executive Director of ARMA. "We will continue to adapt to the needs of Austin manufacturers and create talent development resources that meet the needs of our region's businesses both now and in the future."

The manufacturing production certificate training program provides adults with the skills to enter an industry with opportunities for job growth and earnings potential. "What is key about this collaboration is that the impact of the cohort lasts well after the student finishes," said Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Capital Area. "Graduates receive job placement services and, once on the job, they benefit from follow-up services to help with retention and wage benefits. The ultimate goal is career growth that leads to productive livelihoods, which has positive impacts in the graduates' communities and our region's economy."

"Together, we must do more to train up our local community. ACC is proud to partner with ARMA and Workforce Solutions Capital Area to develop a seamless career pathway that takes our students from the classroom and internships directly to better-paying jobs in manufacturing," said Dr. Richard Rhodes, ACC President and CEO. "This program is a perfect example of how collaboration can make a positive impact on the economy and individuals in our community."

The production assistant training was derived from industry needs and created to meet regional hiring demand. Partnering employers continue to actively participate and guide the programs development to ensure it is achieving its strategic goals. "ARMA provided excellent talent in a time where finding resources has been difficult in the Austin area due to the robust economy," said Dereck Lee, Quality & Safety Manager for Versum Materials. "This program brings out a new field of potential candidates."

A proud partner of the  **americanjobcenter** network

Workforce Solutions Capital Area is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to persons with disabilities. **Relay Texas:** 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) / 711 (Voice) www.wfscapitalarea.com

Will Dahlstrom, Vice President of Manufacturing at Community Impact, agrees. “The first ARMA CPT Class was definitely a good fit for us, and we couldn't be more pleased with the talent that has come out of it.”

To date, participants have earned 37 industry recognized credentials and eight participants have advanced to full time employment within the industry. This program is being evaluated for business impact and the benefit it has on the participating career-seekers. A second cohort is being planned for summer 2019. Interested individuals can email Workforce Solutions at skilledjobs@wfscapitalarea.com to learn more.

About ARMA

ARMA is a membership driven organization dedicated to strengthening area manufacturing. We support a thriving, unique industry through advocacy, workforce development, and networking. For more information, visit <http://arma-tx.org>.

About Austin Community College

ACC is a nationally recognized two-year college serving Central Texas as the primary gateway to higher education and technical training. ACC is focused on student success and providing affordable, flexible pathways to help all students reach their education goals, learn new job skills, or advance their career. The college currently serves more than 70,000 students annually. For more information, visit www.austincc.edu.

About Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board is the publicly-funded workforce board for Travis County. Through strong partnerships and strategic collaborations, Workforce Solutions is leading the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce. For more information, visit www.wfscapitalarea.com.

###