



NEWS RELEASE

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Ivy Tech Community College Richmond's Manufacturing Matters Production Associate Program Graduates First Class

Richmond, IN —Manufacturing Matters, Ivy Tech Community College Richmond's program that provides manufacturing skills training, recently added a new short term training program. The Production Associate program's first group completed the program in late December. Program graduates earned certifications in Safety and Quality Practices/Measurement as well as OSHA 10 cards. A completion ceremony was held January 5 in McDaniel Hall on the Ivy Tech Richmond campus.

Production Associate Graduate Jessica Wren said, "I'm just so grateful for the opportunity that I had by taking this class. I worked in customer service for 20 years and because of family issues, I had to make a change. I just had no idea about the opportunities that are available in manufacturing and how you really can have a career."

Manufacturing Matters employer partners requested the Production Associate training. The five week program is designed to teach the most important aspects of entry level manufacturing and provide employers with qualified candidates quickly.

"As a first year partner, we are impressed," said Angelique Jno Baptiste, Hill's Pet Nutrition. "These Production Associate graduates are the kind of entry-level candidates we want to attract." Production Associates earn their certifications from the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC).

"We are very pleased with the first graduates. They were motivated to learn and to improve their future opportunities. The class worked together and completed everything asked of them. We're proud to call them Manufacturing Matters graduates," said Kim Thurlow, Work Force Consultant, Ivy Tech Community College Richmond.

Recruiting is underway for the upcoming Production Associate training programs scheduled for March 2017. Area residents interested in applying for the next five week program should apply at www.manufacturingmatters.info.

Manufacturing Matters was developed in 2013 to address manufacturing skill gaps and hiring demands in East Central Indiana. There are 13 employer partners and numerous stakeholders in Fayette, Rush, and Wayne Counties. Employer partners include: Vandor Corporation, Howden, Emerson Climate Technologies, Johns Manville, Stant USA Corporation, Trane/Ingersoll Rand, Primex Plastics, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Osborn International, Janesville Acoustics, Richmond Baking Company, and Sugar Creek Brands.

For more information on Manufacturing Matters training programs or to become a Manufacturing Matters partner, please contact Kim Thurlow at kthurlow@ivytech.edu or 765.966.2656 x4013.

About Ivy Tech Community College: Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

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