



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 28, 2016

For more information, contact:

Nancy L. Green, Ed.D.

Assistant Director, Marketing and Enrollment Management

Ivy Tech Community College Richmond Region

765-966-2656 x1249

[ngreen12@ivytech.edu](mailto:ngreen12@ivytech.edu)

### **Manufacturing Matters adds new short-term safety, quality practices training program**

Richmond, Ind. — Manufacturing Matters, a short-term training program at Ivy Tech Community College Richmond Region, started a new training initiative this month. The Production Associate track is a five week safety, quality practices/measurement and employability skills course. The participants can earn three national certifications including an OSHA 10 card when they successfully complete the course.

Kim Thurlow, who oversees the Manufacturing Matters initiative says, “Manufacturing Matters employer partners requested the Production Associate training because it addresses two important areas employers need: safety and quality practices/measurement. Safety is the number one priority for all manufacturers, but quality practices is a close second. Quality practices ensure products are meeting or exceeding customer’s expectations which in turn, helps increase a company’s bottom line. In this program, participants complete in a shorter time period, but have credentials that can continue to stack and be built upon as they enter the workforce.”

The Production Associate program is modeled after a program at Manufacturing Matters’ mentor college, Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. Northeast was assigned to Manufacturing Matters by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in 2013, when AACC awarded a grant to Manufacturing Matters for its training programs.

“You don’t need to take a Manufacturing Matters class to be hired in manufacturing. But, taking the initiative to create evidence of your ability to learn, show up and be drug free is a guarantee your value is higher in the marketplace,” Thurlow said.

Production Associate training certifications are earned through the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC). The nationwide MSSC System, based on industry-defined and federally-endorsed standards, offers both entry-level and incumbent workers the opportunity to demonstrate that they have acquired the skills increasingly needed in the technology-intensive 21st century jobs. These certifications will help guarantee a more qualified and successful employee for local manufacturers.

“MSSC certifications also can be used for Ivy Tech Community College credit in selected academic programs. By earning these national credentials, participants also can earn College credit.” Thurlow said.

Manufacturing Matters was developed in 2013 following a strategic doing session focused on addressing manufacturing skill gaps and hiring demands in East Central Indiana. Today, there are 13 employer partners and numerous stakeholders in Fayette, Rush, and Wayne Counties.

For more information on Manufacturing Matters and its training programs or to become a Manufacturing Matters partner, visit [www.manufacturingmatters.info](http://www.manufacturingmatters.info)

### **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.

####