



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Fast track training program Manufacturing Matters graduates 43 in first year**



Richmond, In (January 8, 2015) – Manufacturing Matters (MM), the fast track manufacturing training program for high demand local jobs, is celebrating a successful first year - four training classes and 43 graduates.

The Thursday, January 8 event in McDaniel Hall on the Ivy Tech Richmond campus will introduce the 12 newest Certified Production Technicians (CPTs) to the program’s manufacturing partners at a job fair and graduation reception with area business, government and education leaders.

Program partner Richmond Baking Company’s Andrea Stuckey, Manager of Family Pride, says “We have been very pleased with the Manufacturing Matters graduates we’ve hired. They came well prepared and spoke highly of the MM Program. We look forward to our continued partnership and the opportunity to hire additional graduates.” Area manufacturing employer partners include Color-Box, Emerson Climate Technologies, GE Roots Connersville, Johns Manville, Primex Plastics Corporation, Richmond Baking Company, Stant USA Corporation, Trane/Ingersoll Rand and Vantor Corporation.

Kim Thurlow, Ivy Tech Corporate College Executive said, “Seeing this truly collaborative initiative gain ground through the commitment of our employer partners, stakeholders and students is very rewarding. It’s central to that part of our mission focused on changing lives and making Indiana great.”

The 12 Wayne County residents graduating are Angela Armitage, Chris Arndts, Susan Combs, Jonathan Doerflein, Mary Downs, Antonio Pettus, Angie Reed, Christian Schaekel, David Shafer, Ron Stephens, Robert Sullivan and Glen Wooten.

Manufacturing Matters is accepting applications for the next class starting March 9, 2015. The deadline for applications is February 23, 2015. Apply online at **[manufacturingmatters.info](http://manufacturingmatters.info)**. Applicants accepted into the program receive a full scholarship valued at \$2,600. To qualify: applicants must complete WorkKeys testing, participate in an interview, pass a drug screening and commit to the training schedule.

The 10 week, 172 hour manufacturing and work eligible training program is taught by Ivy Tech Richmond Corporate College and WorkOne. It provides fast track training for good local jobs available at area manufacturers. The training includes Safety; Quality and Measurement; Manufacturing Production; and Maintenance Awareness. Participants learn valuable skills on what it's like to work in manufacturing – equipping them to make better decisions in seeking employment. Those completing the course sit for a national Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification. The certification also counts toward six academic credits at Ivy Tech Community College in an academic program. To learn more and/or apply online visit **[manufacturingmatters.info](http://manufacturingmatters.info)**.

Ivy Tech Community College Richmond is among 17 community colleges nationwide awarded \$150,000 grant in 2014 to train area residents with skills needed for regional manufacturing jobs. The three -year American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)/Walmart Foundation grant is part of the Job Ready, Willing and Able (JRWA) initiative to provide middle-skills training and industry recognized credentials. Duke Energy, the Economic Growth Group, Wayne County Foundation, Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County are also among program funders.

Manufacturing Matters is a collaborative effort of the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, the Rush County Economic & Community Development Corporation, Economic Development Group of Fayette County, Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce, Rush County Chamber of Commerce, Connersville Chamber of Commerce, Mayor's Office City of Richmond, Mayor's Office City of Connersville, Mayor's Office City of Rushville, WorkOne, Ivy Tech Corporate College and manufacturing employers.