



## Press Release

**Contact: Alice Scott**  
**804.643.7489, ext. 10**  
[ascott@vamanufacturers.com](mailto:ascott@vamanufacturers.com)

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### **VMA partners with ECPI for Workforce Development** **-Regional VCATS Assessment Centers available Statewide-**

**Richmond, VA** - The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is pleased to announce a statewide partnership with ECPI College of Technology to establish VMA-Certified Assessment Centers in four regions of Virginia to increase the attainment of advanced technology industry credentials produced by the association's new workforce development division, the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills (VCATS). These exclusive industry assessments will initially include the VCATS Level 1 Manufacturing Technician, VCATS Manufacturing Specialist and Industrial Energy Auditor certifications.

ECPI will operate up to six assessment centers at convenient locations throughout Virginia, including the Hampton Roads, Central, Southwest and Northern Virginia regions. Individuals in pursuit of employment or looking to advance their careers within advanced technology industries, such as manufacturing, will be able to assess and certify their skills, resulting in key credentials which employers are seeking when evaluating job applicants.

"ECPI College of Technology is proud and excited to have entered into a partnership with the Virginia Manufacturers Association to become VMA-Certified Assessment Centers for their workforce development certifications," announced Kevin P. Paveglio, Campus President, ECPI College of Technology, Virginia Beach location. "From an economic development standpoint, this process may also serve as fuel to attract new employers to the Commonwealth."

Sheryl Bryan, VCATS Executive Director, stated, "The VMA looks forward to working with ECPI as a partner in this endeavor as well as developing additional partnerships around the Commonwealth in order to make available VMA-Certified Assessment Centers and workforce development programs in all areas of the Commonwealth."

The first two locations at which the assessments will be available are ECPI's Virginia Beach and Richmond's Southside locations. For more information on these VMA-Certified Assessment Centers, go to [www.vcats.org](http://www.vcats.org) or [www.ecpi.edu](http://www.ecpi.edu).

**About ECPI College of Technology:** ECPI College of Technology is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Bachelor of Science, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees. With campuses in

North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, ECPI, a private college established in 1966, offers convenient classes during the day, evening, and online; graduate employment services are provided. For more information, visit [www.ecpi.edu](http://www.ecpi.edu).

**About VCATS:** The Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills (VCATS) started as a joint workforce development, training and certification program of the Virginia Biotechnology Association (VaBIO) and the Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) to establish solutions to the upcoming shortage of advanced manufacturing workers in Virginia. It is now the workforce development division of the VMA. Founding investors included Alcoa Inc., Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals, Merck & Co. Inc., Micron Technology Inc., Novozymes Biologicals, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Philip Morris USA, the VMA and VaBIO. Other private industry partners include DuPont-Spruance, National Fruit Product Company, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Swedwood Danville LLC, the Virginia Industry Foundation and Universal Leaf Tobacco Company Inc. For more information, visit [www.vcats.org](http://www.vcats.org) or contact Sheryl Bryan, VCATS Executive Director, at [sbryan@vamanufacturers.com](mailto:sbryan@vamanufacturers.com) or 804-643-7489, ext. 18.