



Press Release

Contact: Alice Scott
804.643.7489, ext. 10
ascott@vamanufacturers.com

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VMA and ECPI Partnership Launches Manassas Location ***-Partnership Aims to Prepare Workforce for Technical Employment-***

Richmond, VA - ECPI College of Technology (ECPI) will open a VMA-Certified Assessment Center on March 23 at its Manassas location as part of a state-wide partnership with the Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA). VMA announced in the fall of 2010 a statewide partnership with ECPI College of Technology to establish its Certified Assessment Centers in four regions of Virginia to increase accessibility to 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," Scott Scheaffer, Campus President, ECPI College of Technology, Northern Virginia Campus. "ECPI College of Technology has a long history of community involvement. What better way to serve our community than partnering with the Virginia Manufacturers Association."

VMA President & CEO Brett A. Vassey stated, "The partnership with ECPI College of Technology is critical to expanding industry skill and degree credentials that advanced technology industries require of their workforce to increase productivity and competitiveness."

VMA-Certified Assessment Centers at ECPI were launched in the fall of 2010 at Virginia Beach and Richmond's Southside locations. Today, the Manassas location will join them with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to be attended by area leaders, after which time ECPI students and instructors will be assessed for the VCATS Manufacturing Technician Level I Certification. For

more information on these VMA-Certified Assessment Centers, go to www.vcats.org or www.ecpi.edu.

About ECPI College of Technology: [ECPI College of Technology](http://www.ecpi.edu) 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. Continuing education IT certification classes and testing are also available.

ECPI's fields of study include: TECHNOLOGY: Biomedical Technology, Healthcare IT, Electronics Engineering Technology, [Information Technology](#), Database Programming, Cyber and Network Security, Web Development, Medical Imaging Technology, Simulation & Game Programming, Mechatronics; BUSINESS: Accounting; Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, IT Management; HEALTH SCIENCES: Dental Assisting, Healthcare Administration, Health Information Management, Massage Therapy, Medical Administration, Medical Assisting, Medical Radiography, Nursing (BSN), Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing, Surgical Technology; CULINARY: Culinary Arts, Food Service Management. (Program field availability varies by campus.) For more information, visit 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, 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.