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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Career Pathway to pursue Technology jobs for Virginians**

Richmond, VA - The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA), the Virginia Biotechnology Association (VaBIO) and the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills (VCATS) are pleased to work with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and The Manufacturing Institute (MI) to promote a career pathway that encourages Virginians to pursue technology jobs by obtaining competency-based and industry-focused skills certification.

The VCATS certification system is built upon the fundamentals of the Virginia Career Readiness Certification Plus (CRC+) and incorporates 12 industry aligned competencies. The VCATS certification system pathway builds as follows: CRC+, Manufacturing Specialist, Manufacturing Technicians Level 1, Manufacturing Technician Level 2 and future opportunities for specialized skills certification, such as Laboratory Technician.

It is the intent of VCATS and NAM and MI to align the state/regional system developed by VCATS with the NAM-Endorsed Skills Certification System.

#### **About VCATS**

The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) and the Virginia Biotechnology Association (VaBIO) have established a new workforce development organization, the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills (VCATS.) This organization has developed certification and training solutions to the upcoming shortage of advanced manufacturing workers in Virginia. Industry sponsors have worked with VCATS to design, test and implement innovative solutions that will meet Virginia's need for skilled employees. This organization is funded in part by a grant awarded under the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For more information, please visit:

[www.vacats.org](http://www.vacats.org)

