



Release Date:
December 4, 2018

CONTACT:
Shawn Brown
sbrown@vamanufacturers.com

Dr. Joe Ashley presented 2018 MSI Fellow

Williamsburg, VA – The Manufacturing Skills Institute is proud to announce Dr. Joe Ashley, of the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, as its first MSI Fellow award recipient during the annual Workforce Symposium in Williamsburg, VA on November 13, 2018.

The MSI Fellow designation is awarded to those individuals who has been active in workforce development for manufacturing, actively supports one or more MSI related credentials or services and has attained distinction in manufacturing related disciplines.

Dr. Ashley has years of devoted leadership and service to Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities through his dedication to help individuals with disabilities acquire marketable skills and recognized post-secondary credentials that enable them to secure employment in advanced manufacturing, and his professional competence as a Rehabilitative Commissioner.

One of the primary project goals is to help individuals with disabilities acquire marketable skills and recognize post-secondary credentials that enable them to secure competitive integrated employment in high-demand, high-quality occupations. The first Career Pathway that Dr. Ashley choose was Advanced Manufacturing. He worked with the Virginia Manufacturers Association to embed an employee within VMA. This was to help Vocational Rehabilitation to fully understand the hiring needs of the manufacturing employers, help shrink the interest and skills gap within Manufacturing and change disability stereotypes. Through Dr. Ashley's perseverance and foresight 61 people with disabilities have been credentialed to have what it takes to work in a manufacturing environment.

About the MSI

The industry-led Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) is the workforce development affiliate of the non-profit Virginia Manufacturers Association. It provides relevant education and skills training for careers in advanced manufacturing by offering world-class training programs delivered by MSI and MSI education partner institutions. Through the partnership between industry and education, employers set the skill standards for MSI program offerings anywhere offered to ensure learning is linked to employment and career advancement opportunities. Employer-specific customized training can be provided onsite or at any MSI education partner location. Working learners advance their manufacturing technology knowledge and skills via OJT classes, classroom-based and online training offered by MSI and education partner faculty grounded in real word experience. For more information about MSI, visit www.manufacturingskillsinstitute.org.