



**Release Date:**  
August 13, 2019

**CONTACT:**  
Shawn Brown  
sbrown@vamanufacturers.com

## **MSI Announces Five Fellow Awards at Annual Workforce Symposium**

**Lynchburg, VA** – The Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Workforce Symposium at Liberty University’s School of Business in Lynchburg, Virginia on August 8th. MSI proudly awarded five recipients its prestigious Fellow designation. MSI Fellow awards are presented to those individuals who have 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. The follow recipients were recognized:

- **Tanya Cook** recently retired from Phillip Morris USA after 35 years of service and is currently sitting on the Board of the Virginia Industry Foundation (VIF), which handles the Virginia Manufacturers Association philanthropic endeavors and donations. Tanya was instrumental in developing the MS and MT1 certificates as part of the new hiring process at PM USA. Tanya also served on the VMA Board of Directors.
- **Simon Nance** has over 15 years in the manufacturing industry. He is passionate about workforce and currently works in Strategic HR Management, Talent Acquisition and Development at Lutron Electronics. Simon developed the *Dream It. Do It.* four-day Advanced Manufacturing Camp Model while at Stihl. He also designed an educational game system to develop creative learning for young people to assist them in learning critical manufacturing skills. Simon is currently a MT1 trainer and VMA Workforce Committee member.
- **Deon Clark** is the owner of TCI Solutions, LLC and the creator of the Legacy Workforce Model which provides companies with a low-cost, sustainable method of developing local, diverse talent into viable candidates for employment. Deon has developed robust talent pipelines for several major global and US companies and provided student development training to hundreds of students to prepare them for opportunities to work in industry as technicians and operators. Deon also provides professional development training to hundreds of educators and industry trainers as well as uses the MS and MT1 certificates as the basis for the Legacy Model to help young people develop skills that qualify them as technicians and operators.
- **Nat Marshall** has over 35 years in manufacturing and is currently the Manager of Human Resources - EEO for BWXT. Nat has provided over 10 years of support to the VMA and is currently the Co-Chair of the Workforce Committee. He has also been a Director of the Virginia State Workforce Board for over 6 years as well as sat on the Virginia Community College State Board for 8 years (2004 -2012) and is Chair of the State and Regional Workforce boards. He has promoted and encouraged the use of

credentials as a pathway for developing qualified workforce, especially the use of the MS and MT1 regionally and statewide

- **Rick Sizemore** has over 32 years of service to people with disabilities at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center and served as the Director since 2007. Recently concluded a term as the Vice President of the National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers, as well as a 5-year term as President. Created and oversaw the implementation for WWRC's Blueprint for Direction which is credited with increasing workforce outcomes and building collaborative relationships with other workforce partners in the manufacturing community. Developed and produced a podcast for vocational rehabilitation and disability employment called the VR Workforce Studio, which has been top rated on iTunes and available from numerous distribution channels and radio networks. Instrumental in the development of the Manufacturing Technology Training program utilizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act which became the model for certifying WWRC graduates with MS, MT1, OHSA10, Forklift Driver's license and CRC, who have been readily employed by manufacturers. Joining forces with the Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities and the Valley to Virginia Grants helped to build out the MTT program with more specialized services like job readiness and soft skills training. Utilized MSI Dream It Do It Advanced Manufacturing Academies to increase awareness of career opportunities in manufacturing for people with disabilities.

#### **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 world experience. For more information about MSI, visit [www.manufacturingskillsinstitute.org](http://www.manufacturingskillsinstitute.org).