

# News Alert

08-243

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## **PRESIDENT OF GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE NAMED TO FIRST INDUSTRY-FOCUSED EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### *Albrecht Will Help Shape Strategies to Create More Manufacturing Jobs*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 29, 2008 – Bryan Albrecht, president, Gateway Technical College, is one of more than 25 education leaders named to the first-ever national Education Council focused on expanding and enhancing the manufacturing workforce. The Council held its inaugural meeting Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

“In these difficult economic times, we must create new educational pathways to help more individuals prepare for high-paying manufacturing jobs and, in turn, help our companies compete in world markets,” said Emily DeRocco, president of The Manufacturing Institute and former U.S. assistant secretary of labor for employment and training.

“Bryan Albrecht will help the Education Council provide leadership, counsel and research to ensure America’s manufacturing workforce is properly prepared to compete in the global economy,” DeRocco continued. “This is a big undertaking. Charter members will focus on issues as wide-ranging as identifying solutions to address the adult literacy crisis, designing regional manufacturing talent development systems, creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century career and technical education programs and advancing innovation in the manufacturing economy.”

Albrecht said he is honored to serve on the industry-focused education council.

“I am proud to represent Gateway Technical College in advancing America’s workforce through the National Association for Manufacturing,” said Albrecht.

DeRocco said as international competition intensifies, U.S. manufacturers are having a difficult time finding qualified people to replace the retiring baby boom generation in increasingly sophisticated, high-tech jobs.

“The skills shortages are having a widespread impact on the ability of manufacturers to achieve production levels, increase productivity and meet customer demands,” said DeRocco. “With more highly-skilled and qualified people, manufacturers could create more jobs with family-sustaining wages.”

Representing K-12, community and technical colleges and four-year colleges and universities, the educators and officials were tapped by The Manufacturing Institute to assist in developing national strategies to keep the American manufacturing workforce globally

competitive and create more high-paying jobs. The Manufacturing Institute is the research, education and workforce arm of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

“The Education Council will help shape major education and workforce development initiatives to close the skills gap, help young people and transitioning workers find new careers in the manufacturing economy and ensure that U.S. manufacturers can continue to lead the world in innovation and productivity. The work of the Education Council is part of a broad strategic agenda to recruit, educate and employ the 21<sup>st</sup> century manufacturing workforce,” DeRocco concluded.

View the Education Council’s charter members at [www.nam.org/EducationCouncil](http://www.nam.org/EducationCouncil).