



**December 2, 2009**

**Endorsement of the NAM-Endorsed Skills Certification System (SCS)**

**Whereas:**

- The *NAM 2005 Skills Gap Report – A Survey of the American Manufacturing Workforce* reported that 54 percent of all respondents indicated a moderate to high degree of negative impact when asked, “To what extent does the shortage of available skills impact your ability to serve your customers?”
- The Manufacturing Institute’s report *The Facts About Modern Manufacturing, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition* reports: (1) manufacturing production is now at the highest point in its history and is keeping pace with the overall economy in terms of physical output, (2) manufacturing pays higher wages and has a higher multiplier effect than other economic sectors, and (3) manufacturing continues to generate more economic activity per dollar of production than any other business sector in the country.
- The Manufacturing Institute has introduced the ***NAM-Endorsed Skills Certification System***.
- NAM is encouraging members to sign and send a letter of support to The Honorable Walt Minnick, U.S. House of Representatives, in support of the NAM SCS.
- Manufacturing is critically important to our economic well being in West Michigan.
- We have already successfully launched the *National Career Readiness Certificate*, the foundational skills portion of the system, in Michigan.
- The Gates Foundation financed the work at four “deep-dive” sites, and the results of that initial work will be available in the first quarter of next year.



**We RESOLVE . . .**

. . . to actively engage in the launch of the NAM-Endorsed Skills Certification System in Michigan

**We call upon:**

- Our community colleges to work together to align manufacturing curricula and certification with the NAM SCS
- Our workforce boards to recognize the NAM SCS and provide training support
- Our manufacturing councils throughout West Michigan to join us in this effort
- Our Manufacturing Council, Workforce Development Working Group to organize a team to convene our community partners and to track and report progress on our regional implementation of the NAM SCS. This team is to host a kick-off event for our employers and partners (tentatively planned for the end of February 2010)
- Other organizations, such as; the Chambers, economic development organizations, etc., to join us in moving forward industry-recognized credentials
- Our Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth to support this effort with Regional Skills Alliance (RSA) or similar funding