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## **LIFT and Vincennes Roll Out Right Skills NOW Training for Vets** *Machinist training to help transition vets to civilian jobs and fill talent gaps*

Vincennes, IN – Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) and Vincennes University (VU) today announced the Right Skills NOW program for machinist training. In partnership with LIFT, VU will roll out a CNC Machinist program designed to prepare veterans to transition to civilian jobs as skilled employees with upward mobility potential. The accelerated program of study features national credentials from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills [NIMS] based on skills needed for a career in advanced manufacturing.

“LIFT’s partner companies need highly trained workers to move their new technology developments forward,” said Larry Brown, executive director, LIFT. “Veterans are an untapped talent resource that can be quickly trained to fill gaps for many employers.”

In Indiana nearly 500,000 separating military personnel will need to find work in the coming year. The Right Skills NOW program is well-designed for veterans because they are able to quickly gain hands-on experience, enhance their skills and enter full-time employment.

“Training returning veterans will provide employers with reliable and highly skilled talent that they need,” said Emily Stover DeRocco, Workforce and Education Director, LIFT. “With so many separating military men and women expected and already in Indiana, we have a ready and able workforce that just needs some in-demand skills to get started. The Right Skills NOW program is the perfect solution.”

Veterans participating in the Right Skills NOW program will train at the newly built Gene Haas Training Center, just 25 miles from downtown Indianapolis. This state-of-the-art, 23,000 square foot center will leverage resources to more than double the number of veterans trained for advanced manufacturing jobs. Partner

companies connect with trainees ahead of time and mentor them through the training. Graduates from the program are immediately placed in positions once the program is completed.

“Employer partners are important for this project,” said Chuck Johnson, interim President Vincennes University. “Our goal is to increase the supply of technically capable workers for companies and the Right Skills NOW framework makes that possible. We are excited to host this program at Vincennes and train our returning veterans.”

For more information on the Vincennes Right Skills NOW program for veterans and other LIFT education and workforce development initiatives, please visit [www.lift.technology](http://www.lift.technology) or contact LIFT Workforce & Education Director, Emily DeRocco, at [ederocco@lift.technology](mailto:ederocco@lift.technology).

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## **ABOUT LIFT**

*Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow (LIFT) is a public-private partnership that will develop and deploy advanced lightweight materials manufacturing technologies and programs to prepare the workforce. The LIFT region includes 5 states: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.*

*LIFT is operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) and was selected through a competitive process led by the U.S. Department of Defense under the Lightweight and Modern Metals Manufacturing Innovation (LM3I) solicitation issued by the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research. LIFT is one of the founding institutes in the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, a federal initiative to create regional hubs to accelerate the development and adoption of cutting-edge manufacturing technologies.*

## **ABOUT VINCENNES UNIVERSITY**

*Vincennes University, Indiana's first college, is the State's premier transfer institution and leader in innovative career programming. The VU community ensures educational access, delivers proven associate and baccalaureate programs, and offers cultural opportunities and community services in a diverse, student-centered, collegiate environment.*

*Under the guidance of highly experienced administrators, faculty and staff members, Vincennes University students have the opportunity to pursue or advance careers in a number of industry-specific areas of expertise such as: teaching, educational administration, healthcare, physical education and wellness, graphic design, journalism, nursing, sport management, aviation, manufacturing and interior design.*



# RIGHT SKILLS RIGHT NOW Accelerated Machinist Training for Veterans in Indiana

*An Education & Workforce Development Initiative  
for LIFT...Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow*



## THE PROBLEM

After serving the country, veterans face the often difficult task of transitioning to civilian life and obtaining full-time employment with family sustaining wages. According to the 2015 Veteran Economic Opportunity Report, approximately one out of two (53%) separating Post-9/11 veterans will face a period of unemployment. Furthermore, the average duration of unemployment for veterans has increased from 18 to 22 weeks in the last six years. In Indiana, nearly 500,000 veterans need to find full-time work as they transition out of the military.

Meanwhile, Indiana's manufacturers posted 45,500 open positions from July 2014 to June 2015. These manufacturers need hard-working, highly-skilled workers to fill their talent gaps. Ensuring the state's veterans can access accelerated training to gain the skills in demand for good jobs in advanced manufacturing is a critical solution for both Indiana's manufacturers and the men and women who served.

## THE SOLUTION

Vincennes University (VU) offers the accelerated Right Skills NOW CNC Machinist training program, designed to help veterans transition to civilian employment as skilled employees with upward mobility potential. The accelerated CNC Machinist Right Skills NOW program of study features industry-recognized NIMS credentials based on skills needed for a career in advanced manufacturing. The program is VA-approved so veterans can apply their benefits towards tuition, supplies, and for some living expenses.

The Right Skills NOW program is a great fit for veterans because they are able to quickly gain hands-on experience, enhance their skills and enter full-time employment. Combined with training, the maturity and life experience of veterans provide a solid foundation for succeeding and advancing on the job, important factors for Indiana's employers. Partner employers benefit from access to trained workers whose military service has engrained work ethic, commitment, and loyalty.

## PROJECT LEAD

Vincennes University

## PARTNERS

Gene Haas Foundation  
Veterans Administration (VA)  
Indiana National Guard

### From Industry

Frank Ladner  
Jasper Engines  
Haas Automation  
HFO Midwest  
Sandvik  
Mastercam  
Reinshaw  
Quality Mill Supply  
Clodfelter Engineering  
SGS

Zeiss  
5th-Axis Fixtures  
Frowa  
Immerse2Learn  
Fastenal  
Chick  
Techniks  
Mitutoyo  
Rego-Fix

### From NNMI

Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT)  
Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI)

## ALIGNMENT TO LIFT WORKFORCE & EDUCATION GOALS

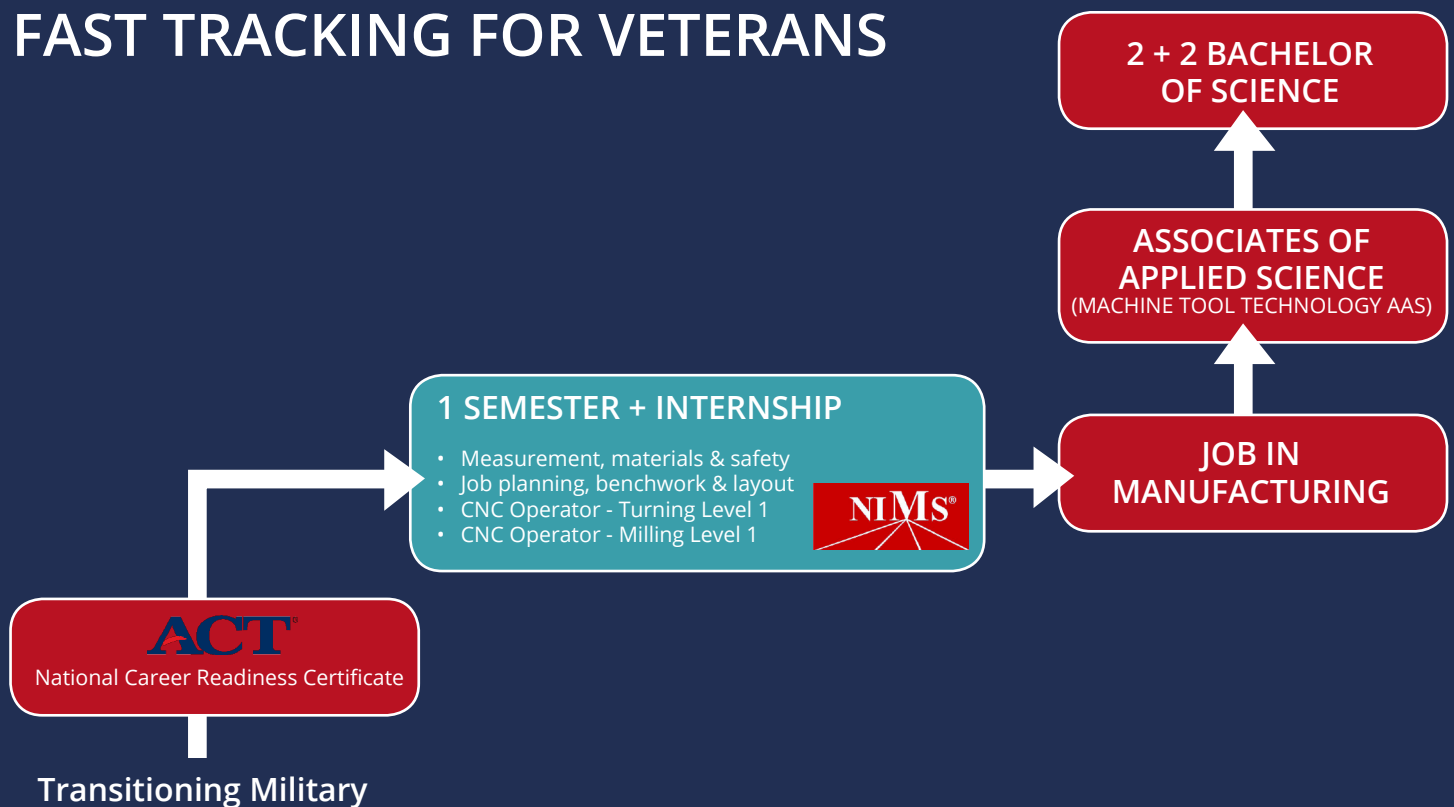


Connecting separating military and veterans with Fast Track skills development and manufacturing careers within the lightweight metals manufacturing pathway



Linking & leveraging resources and related initiatives on the ground today

# FAST TRACKING FOR VETERANS



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Right Skills NOW CNC Machinist training at Vincennes focuses on training military veterans. Many factors contribute to the success of the Right Skills NOW program, including:

- Employer engagement at the onset – connecting the veterans with a job before the training;
- Accelerated training (16 weeks with hundreds of hours of hands-on learning);
- Industry recognized NIMS credentials awarded;
- High demand skills taught on high quality, state-of-the-art equipment (16 full size Haas CNC machines, 12 Haas control simulators, 15 seats of Mastercam, etc.); and
- Entry into a good paying career with potential for upward mobility.

Right Skills NOW program candidates are interviewed by a partner employer from their geographical area prior to the training. Partner employers select participants to “sponsor” for the training. Attendance and grades are reported to the employers monthly over the 16 weeks of training. Upon completion, graduates are placed immediately into CNC operator and machine setup and operation positions with one of the sponsoring employers.

Veterans participating in the Right Skills NOW program will train at the newly built Gene Haas Training Center, just 25 miles from downtown Indianapolis. This state-of-the-art, 23,000 square foot center will leverage resources to more than double the number of veterans trained for advanced manufacturing jobs.

## GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

Veterans from throughout Indiana will be able to participate in the training program which will be held in Central Indiana. The City of Lebanon, where the training will be provided, is located in Boone County, one of the eight counties surrounding the City of Indianapolis.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

With funding from LIFT, the Right Skills NOW CNC Machinist program will be able to support an additional 70 veterans gaining valuable manufacturing skills. Veterans experiencing a gap between funds available to support themselves and their families and to participate in the accelerated training will receive a stipend of up to \$3,000 to bridge the gap.

For more information please see [lift.technology](http://lift.technology) or contact LIFT Education & Workforce Director Emily DeRocco at [ederocco@lift.technology](mailto:ederocco@lift.technology).

