FAQs About Valencia’s Advanced Manufacturing Programs

Why is Valencia excited about supporting workforce development for manufacturing?
Manufacturing in Central Florida is extremely diverse and critical to our local economy. There are currently more than 5,000 job openings for skilled workers, according to the Manufacturers Association of Florida. But because there aren’t enough skilled workers to fill the positions, the state’s 17,000 manufacturers—who make everything from electronics to medical devices—often spend months looking for qualified candidates to fill open positions.

How will advanced manufacturing help our community?
Manufacturing is one of the industries that will be affected by the consistent retirements of Baby Boomer employees. As the experienced and talented workforce leaves, there must be employees with skills to take their place. There could not be a better time to begin a career in advanced manufacturing.

Where will the Advanced Manufacturing Center be located?
Valencia’s Advanced Manufacturing Center will be located at 1099 Shady Lane, Kissimmee, FL. If you take the Turnpike to the 192 exit, the center is directly across U.S. Route 192 about a ¼ of a mile on the left.

When is the Advanced Manufacturing Center opening?
We are planning to open Fall 2015 with classes starting on Oct. 12, 2015. Our general hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tours of the center will be held weekly. To schedule a tour please contact Keisha Sweeney at 407-582-8245.

What programs will be offered at the Advanced Manufacturing Center?
A variety of short-term training programs will be offered at the Advanced Manufacturing Center. All of these programs will provide students with the knowledge, skills and hands-on training needed to earn a national or international industry manufacturing certification.

What programs will be offered in Orange County?
Valencia will offer Advanced Manufacturing programs at its West Campus at 1800 South Kirkman Road. If hands-on segments are required for the training, they will be provided at the Osceola County location and/or one of Valencia’s advanced manufacturing partner’s Orange County location that can assist with the hands-on training requirements.

Can I get a degree in manufacturing?
Yes. Valencia is developing a Manufacturing Engineering Technology Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. Students who earn short-term industry certifications may earn credit toward the A.S. degree program and continue their education. After earning their A.S. degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, options exist to continue to a four-year degree.

Where do I go for the schedule of these programs?
Contact Keisha Sweeney at 407-582-8245 for a complete listing of our programs and start dates.

How do I register for these programs?
Contact Chris LeGoullon at 407-582-8227 for registration information.
Is there any financial support available for these programs?
Some students may qualify for financial support from our partner CareerSource of Central Florida. For more information on the requirements please go to http://careersourcecentralflorida.com/manufacturing. Students pursuing an A.S. degree may be eligible for federal financial aid.

Will there be job placement services to help me get a job in manufacturing?
Yes. Our team works with local manufacturers to understand their hiring needs. Once you complete your program of study you will receive assistance in creating a resume and profile. Our employers who are seeking individuals with your certification or specialization will be notified that you are ready to be interviewed. Valencia’s Advanced Manufacturing staff will also coordinate hiring sessions with employers as needed.

As an employer how can I get involved in Valencia’s Advanced Manufacturing programs?
There are multiple ways an employer can get involved with Valencia’s Advanced Manufacturing programs. Support from our local manufacturers is critical to our success. Employers can provide support of our programming by participating on various committees, helping to design hands-on curriculum, and providing access to specialty tools and equipment. Employers can also assist our students with practice interviews and if a good match exists, hire our students. To discuss how your organization can play a role in our program, please contact Carl Harris at 407-582-5262.

If I want to be an instructor for the Advanced Manufacturing programs how do I go about applying?
Valencia is seeking high-quality instructors for its Advanced Manufacturing programs in the areas of welding, assembly, CNC, quality, Six Sigma and lean manufacturing. You must have extensive industry experience in one of these disciplines or be considered a subject matter expert. If you are interested in an instructor position, please contact Keisha Sweeney at 407-582-8245.

Who do I contact about Advanced Manufacturing at Valencia?
Director            Carl Harris        407-582-5262
Program Manager     Randy White       407-582-8207
Career Coach         Chris LeGoullon   407-582-8227
Administrative Asst. Keisha Sweeney   407-582-8245