



## Press Release

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### **Katherine DeRosear to Lead VMA Workforce Development Division**

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Workforce Development Division Director, Ms. Katherine DeRosear. The workforce development division has centralized all the educational and job-related programs and services of the VMA. Some of these include the Manufacturing Specialist and Manufacturing Technician Certifications, World-Class Manufacturing Certificate, VCATS Soft Skills Assessment, VMA Certified Industrial Energy Auditor, 40 different skills-based modules for closing skills gaps in production workers and the coordination of the statewide *Dream It Do It Virginia* network to promote careers in advanced technology industries. The division also serves as the VMA's workforce development, secondary education and higher education policy arm.

“We will continue our strategic investments in VCATS Assessment Centers across the Commonwealth and Mid-Atlantic. These Centers are essential to the development of critical skills in individuals seeking opportunities in advanced technology industries. Katherine is exactly the right person to build out this network, serve our members and continue our public policy initiatives,” said Brett Vassey, VMA President & CEO.

Katherine has been a private sector consultant for Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN) since 2007, where she established work readiness skill assessment and training resources in community colleges, workforce development boards and other educational facilities within Virginia and throughout the country. Prior to WIN, Katherine spent five years in key positions within State government, most notably the Deputy Senior Advisor for Workforce Development in the Governor's Office, Deputy Director for the Council on Virginia's Future, and Director for Workforce Policy within the Workforce Development Services Division of the Virginia Community College System. Prior to state leadership positions, DeRosear was Director of Research and Communications with the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. She also has association experience, having served as Vice President for the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“The VMA is a model and best practice for aligning workforce education and training with the needs of industry. It recognizes and reinforces the need to build strategic partnerships that connect learning with earning, and leads to employment opportunities within advanced technology industries,” explains Katherine. “I am honored to be part of the VMA enterprise and look forward to reducing the cycle time for creating a manufacturing work ‘ready’ workforce.”

Katherine is from Nebraska but currently resides in Chesterfield County, Virginia, with her husband and son. She has a BA from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Katherine may be reached at (804) 643-7489 ext. 18 or [kdrosear@vamanufacturers.com](mailto:kdrosear@vamanufacturers.com). Visit [www.vamanufacturers.com](http://www.vamanufacturers.com) for more information.