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CONTACTS

Eric Burkland (614) 224-5111

Bruce Johnson (614) 464-1266

**Ohio Manufacturers' Association & Inter-University Council of Ohio
Applaud Introduction of New Workforce Grant Program**

Proposed legislation provides financial incentives and on-the-job, real-world work experiences for students pursuing postsecondary education credentials in in-demand jobs

(Columbus, OH) – The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) and the Inter-University of Ohio (IUC) jointly issued the following statements of support for today's introduction of House Bill 1 (Kirk Schuring, R-Canton; Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville), which proposes to create an Ohio Higher Education Workforce Grant Program.

"This legislation recognizes the critical need for enhanced levels of collaboration between Ohio's private-sector employers and the state's extensive public-sector education and workforce training providers," said OMA President Eric Burkland. "Working together more closely is vital to the success of Ohio's continuing efforts to build a globally competitive workforce capable of attracting business investment and jobs to our state."

"The proposed Higher Education Workforce Grant Program signals a firm, sensible and much-needed approach to better align workplace requirements and workforce knowledge, skills and credentials, particularly in in-demand fields," said IUC President Bruce Johnson. "This is a solid step in the right direction to strategically enhance workforce training in our state."

Both organizations applaud Speaker Rosenberger and his leadership team for making this legislation House Bill 1, and both pledge to work closely with Representatives Schuring and Manning and their colleagues in the General Assembly to advance and secure passage of the bill.

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The mission of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. The Inter-University Council is a voluntary educational association of Ohio's public universities.