

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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READY FOR OPERATION NEXT?



We talk a lot about workforce development, the talent pipeline, and the worker shortage, but I recently came across a couple of statistics that really opened my eyes to opportunity.

According to a 2021 Deloitte study, by 2030 there will be 2.1 million unfilled manufacturing jobs in the United States. The good news is, there are **200,000** military personnel transitioning to civilian life **each year**. Herein lies the opportunity.

MACNY is stepping up to the plate. The Department of Defense (DOD) has chosen MACNY to work with LIFT (Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Institute), on an initiative focused on transitioning soldiers, their spouses, and dependents to train and connect them with the most in-demand manufacturing jobs across the United States. This is the first contract of its kind in New York State, called Operation Next.

This is exciting news for both military families and American advanced manufacturers who require this talent to produce high demand products here in the U.S. and to fortify our supply chains. For military spouses, earning Operation Next credentials addresses the struggle to gain lucrative employment due to the need for relocation. These credentials are standards-based, industry-recognized, and portable.

Employers' issues are also addressed, as high value credentials can outweigh their concerns about the need for occasional deployment. MACNY Workforce Development Program Manager - Military and Veteran Services, Patrick Langan, stated, "Employers that I'm reaching out to are eager to find ways to get involved with this potential workforce and appreciate the opportunity to assist our transitioning military personnel in training and development." His task is to cultivate training partners and employers across the state who will collaborate on this effort, especially as it relates to Ft. Drum in Jefferson

County, with its population of nearly 20,000 military service members. Patrick will employ a template already in place at other installations (including MI, WI, KY, AL, FL, NC, VA) across the U.S., with more locations under discussion as the DOD replicates Operation Next.

Laury Ferguson, Director of Apprenticeship and Workforce Development, says, "MACNY is thrilled to serve an integral role in this important endeavor. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building the workforce of U.S. manufacturers and supporting military personnel and their families as they transition to civilian life. This win-win initiative supports economic growth, national security, and global competitiveness while providing a sustainable career pathway for transitioning service members."

If you would like to learn about Operation Next and the ways you can get involved, register for the upcoming **Operation Next Information Session on April 26th from 2 - 3 PM using the following QR code or visit macny.org/events. For more information, contact Patrick Langan at plangan@macny.org.**

