



## Press Release Contact

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**Release Date**  
June 27, 2023

## VMA Expands and Relocates HQ

*-Board Announces New MSI Training Lab & VMA Event Center-*

**RICHMOND, VA** – The VMA Board of Directors began its new *Vision 2027* strategic plan this year. Three specific strategic objectives within that plan include closing the production workforce skills and gender gaps; increasing member rewards and recognition programming; and politically mobilizing manufacturing leaders, employees, retirees, and suppliers. To help accomplish these strategic objectives, the Board is announcing that the VMA has moved its corporate headquarters and is constructing a new world-class Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) Training Lab and VMA Event Center. The VMA staff has moved into the HQ and the remaining assets will be available in September 2023.

“The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a few things about resource planning and risk management,” said Brett Vassey, President & CEO, VMA. “The new MSI Training Lab and VMA Event Center will ensure that, for the first time in our 101-year history, we can provide live, remote, and asynchronous training, professional development, events, and networking for our members without depending upon commercial or government facilities.”

The MSI Training Lab will support 32 trainees with benchtop equipment, [virtual reality systems](#), and augmented reality systems. The facility will also support MSI’s Registered Apprenticeship, Industry Credential and Certifications, Safety, and a national “train-the-trainer” programs to support its growing workforce solutions. MSI intends to partner with manufacturers, educational institutions, other trade associations, and strategic non-profits for facility utilization.

“The VMA is committed to closing the production skills and gender gaps by 2027, and our MSI Training Lab will be an essential national resource for manufacturers and our allies,” said Sidney Harrison, Chairman, VMA.

The VMA Event Center will support 125 attendees with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and support services. The Center will have its own catering, general session, and breakout meeting areas that will provide a turn-key experience for VMA events, networking, political fundraisers, and professional development. VMA also intends to make the Center available to members, peer trade associations, General Assembly members, and other strategic allies.

“The MSI Training Lab and VMA Event Center will enable our organization to substantially increase its training and apprenticeship programming, member engagement, and collaboration with strategic partners,” said Julia Jones, VP-Quality, Newport News Shipbuilding.

The new facilities are located at 2112 W. Laburnum Avenue, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23227. They are 8 minutes from the Amtrak station, 22 minutes from the Richmond International Airport, and 10 minutes from the Virginia Capitol. **The official open house will be on October 6 to celebrate National MFG Day.**

### About Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA)

*The VMA develops and advocates for constructive public policies and supports a broad array of business services and programs to help ensure that Virginia manufacturing companies can be productive, profitable, and competitive in Virginia. Virginia’s 6,000+ manufacturers employ over 239,000 individuals, contribute \$49.5 billion to the gross state product, and account for over 80% of the Commonwealth’s manufactured goods exports to the global economy. For more about the VMA, please visit [www.va-mfg.com](http://www.va-mfg.com).*