



# VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

To conduct industry-specific research and build a delivery system for skill standards, assessments and certifications, the National Skill Standards Board (NSSB) sponsors voluntary, industry-led coalitions that are called Voluntary Partnerships (VP). The Voluntary Partnerships consist of employers, employees, unions, educators, community based organizations and civil rights organizations that have joined together to build a voluntary, national skill standards system.

While the NSSB has been conducting research in different industries, only four coalitions described below have been officially recognized as VPs at this time. Certifications covered under the scope of a VP should work in conjunction with that Voluntary Partnership to apply for NSSB Certification Recognition. If you have any questions regarding the scope of the VPs, please contact the NSSB at 202-254-8628.

## Education and Training Voluntary Partnership

In January 1998, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the American Association of Community Colleges, the National Education Association, the National School Boards Association, and the American Society for Training and Development established the Education and Training Industry Sector Convening Group, a viable coalition of employer, employee and public interest organizations that created a strategic plan for the development and future implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards.

In October 1999, the National Skill Standards Board recognized the Education and Training Industry Sector Convening Group as the Education and Training Voluntary Partnership, whose mission is to develop a national system of voluntary skill standards for front-line workers in the education and training industry, with an emphasis on the paraprofessional. In subsequent phases, the E&TVP will develop assessments and certification systems.

### **E&TVP Contact:**

Ms. Tish Olshefski  
American Federation of Teachers  
555 New Jersey Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone/202-879-4520  
Fax/202-879-4597  
tolshefs@aft.org

### **Industries Covered:**

Public and Private Education  
Job Training  
Child Care

# VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

## Hospitality and Tourism Voluntary Partnership

The Hospitality and Tourism Voluntary Partnership (HTVP), recognized by the National Skill Standards Board in 2000, comprises nearly 100 organizations and groups representing restaurants and foodservice; hotels and lodging; travel and tourism; and recreation and amusements. The HTVP is working with the NSSB to establish a viable, national system of voluntary and updateable skill standards for workers in the hospitality and tourism sector. The system is being designed to support efforts to streamline hiring and evaluation processes for employers; identify and meet professional needs for employees; allow educational institutions to better plan their activities; guide the training investment choices of businesses, and allow parents and community organizations to better participate in decisions about matching educational priorities to local needs.

The Hospitality Business Alliance serves as the fiscal agent for the Hospitality and Tourism Voluntary Partnership.

### **H&TVP Contact:**

Doug Adair, Acting Executive Director  
Hospitality and Tourism Voluntary Partnership  
c/o ORS, Inc.  
413 William St., NW  
2nd Floor  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
Phone/703-236-5014  
Fax/703-779-1773  
dadair@orsinteractive.com

### **Industries Covered:**

Restaurants and Foodservice  
Hotels and Lodging  
Travel and Tourism  
Amusement and Recreation

## Manufacturing Skill Standards Council

The Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) was recognized as the first Voluntary Partnership in March 1998. The mission of the MSSC is to develop a nationwide system of workforce skill standards for manufacturing and related installation and repair workers. This nationwide Manufacturing Skill Standards System will enhance the productivity and global economic competitiveness of U.S.-based manufacturing companies; raise the standard of living and economic security of American workers by improving their access to high-skill, high-wage employment and career opportunities for those currently in, entering, or reentering the workforce; and encourage the use of world-class academic, occupational and employability standards to guide continuous education and training for current and future workers.

The National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) and the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute (WAI) staff and manage the work of the MSSC and its several committees responsible for the work and research programs to develop, disseminate and document skill standards. The MSSC received NSSB approval of their skill standards in May 2001.

# VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

**MSSC Contact:**

Ms. LeeSa Gerst, Director of Communications  
Manufacturing Skill Standards Council  
1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 725  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone 202/216-2745  
Fax 202/289-7618  
gerstl@nacfam.org

**Industries Covered:**

Food and Beverage  
Textiles and Leather  
Furniture  
Wood and Paper  
Printing  
Petroleum and Coal  
Chemical  
Plastic and Rubber  
Non-metallic minerals (glass, concrete, etc)  
Primary and Fabricated metals  
Machinery  
Computers and Electronic Products  
Electrical equipment and Appliances  
Transportation Equipment

## Sales and Service Voluntary Partnership Inc.™

The Sales & Service Voluntary Partnership Inc.™ (S&SVP) is a national body serving as the catalyst for skill standards development for the retail trade, wholesale trade, real estate and personal services industries. Participation is open to large and small employers, trade associations, labor organizations, employee associations and public interest representatives for education, government, community and policy groups.

The S&SVP is managed by the National Retail Foundation.

**S&SVP Contact:**

Kathy Mannes  
Manager, Workforce Initiatives  
NRF, Liberty Place  
325 7th Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone/202-626-8110  
Fax/202-737-2849  
mannesk@nrf.com

**Industries Covered:**

Retail Trade  
Wholesale Trade  
Real Estate  
Personal Services