NORTH ADAMS – Friday, October 4, 2013 – To mark the second annual National Manufacturing Day, Governor Deval Patrick today joined Administration officials, industry leaders and academia on a tour of Crane Stationary, underscoring the Administration’s support of the manufacturing industry and its workforce throughout the Commonwealth. In continuation of this commitment, Governor Patrick announced two initiatives to make the necessary connections between manufacturers and educators, addressing the industry’s future workforce needs and ensuring students are properly trained for these 21st century careers.

“Advanced manufacturing is an area of critical focus, one that can help us put people to work now and prepare our workers for the jobs of the 21st century global economy,” said Governor Patrick. “It is central to our strategy of investing today in order to create a stronger Commonwealth for the next generation. Through the exciting programs being announced today, we are helping employers gain direct access to the talented
Governor Patrick Celebrates National Manufacturing Day

workers that will strengthen their businesses.”

During the visit, Governor Patrick announced the MIT-Community College Pilot Project. Through the Project, the state’s community colleges and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are partnering to develop and implement state-of-the-art online learning and training resources to allow the Commonwealth’s community colleges to reach more students and expand lab space for hands-on teaching, an essential component of manufacturing training. By connecting MIT’s strength in online learning, simulation and gaming technology with the hands-on classroom instruction at community colleges, the Project will transform how manufacturing education is delivered and enhance and expand the state’s ability to train students from high school through college for advanced manufacturing careers.

“The more we do to bring relevant hands-on work experiences to our college campuses will ensure we have a well-prepared workforce right here in Massachusetts,” said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. “The partnership between MIT and our community colleges will help bring a new perspective to our community colleges and will benefit our students for years to come.”

“By increasing awareness and engaging students through hands-on applications and learning experiences, Massachusetts will build a strong and talented future workforce,” said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Joanne Goldstein. “The state’s manufacturing industry is expected to fill 100,000 jobs over the next decade, and our investments we make today will help to train, prepare and retain students to excel within the industry and in Massachusetts.”

“No, more than ever, we can not only ask grade school students what they want to be when they grow up – we can actively show them the opportunities via our classrooms and labs to create a pipeline of future employees,” said Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy. “Massachusetts Community Colleges are passionately working to transform the Commonwealth’s advanced manufacturing industry. This collaboration with MIT is going to enhance and expand training opportunities that will lead to vibrant careers in the Commonwealth.”

“Advanced manufacturing is extremely important to Berkshire County and having a partnership with MIT is a perfect example of multiple organizations working together to meet the needs of our business partners,” said Executive Director of Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, Heather Boulger. “Opportunities in collaboration with such a prestigious college will help to enhance the great work that Berkshire Community College and our partners are already doing in the manufacturing sector.”

Additionally, Governor Patrick announced the second round of grants under the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative’s AMP it up! program, which will total $100,000. Launched in September 2012 and operated by MassDevelopment, the program works to increase awareness among young adults and their families on the opportunities for good jobs and solid careers in manufacturing. In January 2013, MassDevelopment provided $92,736 to 10 organizations across the Commonwealth working to educate students about the industry and career options. Massachusetts-based nonprofit organizations that address education and workforce can apply for funding at www.ampitup.com.

“Thanks to the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative and events like National Manufacturing Day, people across Massachusetts are starting to see the new world of manufacturing: advanced, technology-based and innovative,” said MassDevelopment
President and CEO Marty Jones. “MassDevelopment is pleased to boost the Commonwealth’s manufacturing sector through the Manufacturing Futures Fund and the AMP it up! campaign, and it was a thrill to see so many companies open their doors to students and adults today.”

Crane & Company, with over 800 employees in Massachusetts, is renowned for its fine, 100 percent cotton stationary used for social and business correspondence, invitations and announcements. Recent investments in leading technology have helped Crane move beyond its papermaking roots to a leader in the security and anti-counterfeiting technology industries. In the past 10 years, the company has significantly expanded their operations but remains Massachusetts-based. Their products are sold by more than 1,000 independent retailers throughout the world.

"With over 200 years of manufacturing history in Massachusetts, we are pleased to support National Manufacturing Day," said Stephen P. DeFalco, Chief Executive Officer of Crane & Company. "From our humble start in the Berkshires, Crane is now a fast moving international force. The investment and support of our employees have enabled us to compete in the global market."

The Patrick Administration is committed to supporting the growth of advanced manufacturing in Massachusetts, an industry that is expected to fill 100,000 jobs in the next decade and offers careers in a sector with an average annual salary of $75,000. These newest announcements build on the record investments in workforce training and education made by the Administration in recent years, including more than $10 million in Workforce Training Fund Grants awarded to 117 manufacturers since July 2011. Additionally, the Administration has fostered relationships throughout the regions to strengthen and expand connections between manufacturing companies and community colleges, career and technical high schools, career centers and workforce boards. For example, in partnership with Putnam Vocational Technical Academy, Westfield Vocational Technical High School and Springfield Technical Community College, the Precision Manufacturing Training Program has supported the training of 89 workers in Hampden County, including 31 veterans and 44 residents from Gateway Cities. In June, Governor Patrick announced the creation of the Advanced Manufacturing Regional Partnership Academy, a first-in-the-nation program designed to meet the manufacturing industry’s future workforce needs. The Academy will provide hands-on learning opportunities, and tool and peer-education to regional leaders, helping eliminate one of the industry’s chief concerns of finding well-trained employees to fill available jobs in manufacturing.

"Massachusetts is on the cutting-edge in terms of what states are doing to grow 21st century manufacturing," said Secretary Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki. "By collaborating with industry leaders and academia, we can help ensure our next generation is equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for careers in advanced manufacturing."

Across the Commonwealth, in recognition of National Manufacturing Day, the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, a group comprised of leaders from industry, academia and government working together to enhance the competitiveness of Massachusetts manufacturing, reached out to manufacturers, schools and colleges to participate in open houses, public tours, roundtable discussions, career workshops and other events hosted by manufacturers.

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