



**Endorsements for the 10 By 20 Pledge for America Campaign
Organizations Representing Hundreds of Thousands of Employees or Members**

On behalf of the **National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA)**, I am pleased to write in support of the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** which you are launching... NTMA is the national association representing the \$40 billion precision custom manufacturing industry, which employs more than 440,000 skilled workers in the U.S. We are proud to join other trade associations, businesses, school systems and community leaders who are supporting the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** to promote the training of a new generation of skilled workers in America and urge others to do the same... NTMA is also pleased that one of the core goals of this campaign is to improve the image and restore the dignity of skilled work in America as well as remove the stigma from skilled labor which is one of the causes of a growing shortage of young people entering the skilled trades. **Dave Tilston, President** **Endorsement Letter**



The **Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA)** fully supports the **10 By 20 Pledge for America** campaign and its goal of adding 10 million new skilled workers into the U.S. economy by 2020. Through programs like JAMA's Academy for Manufacturing Careers DOL-certified Registered Apprenticeship Program and a host of hands-on youth educational programs like I Can Make It Camp (4th-6th grade), Machining U (7th-9th grade), Shop Rat (6th-10th grade) and Hot Rod U (9th-12th grade), we're already doing a great deal in south-central Michigan to offer youth and adults opportunities to gain the advanced manufacturing skills needed NOW and in the future by companies in our region. We pledge to do as much as we can to expand our efforts and link those efforts to those of others working to fulfill the **10 By 20 Pledge**. **Bill Rayl, Executive Director** www.jacksonjama.org



As President of the **Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council**, I support the **10 by 20 Pledge for America Campaign** which is being launched by John Ratzenberger and the Center for America on Labor Day, September 5, 2011. Our goal is to sign up one million Americans in who will pledge to take action in their communities to support training a new generation of skilled workers in America. This Campaign will bring together unions, businesses, and school systems to reach out to workers, leaders, parents, students, educators, and ordinary people who have a stake in the prosperity of America. I am pleased to lend my name and voice to the Campaign and urge you to do to the same. **Lyle A. Balistreri**



Lyle Balistreri and John Ratzenberger at Bradley Tech in Milwaukee



Join the Campaign!
Contact: Karen Kaplowitz, Vice President
888-890-4240 or kkaplowitz@newellis.com

American Electric Power enthusiastically endorses the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** that the Center for America is launching to generate support for training 10 million new skilled workers in our nation by the year 2020. Our company has approximately 19,000 employees and provides electric service to portions of 11 states. The success of our enterprise depends upon the skilled workers we have in a multitude of critical positions... ..Several thousand of our employees have either retired within the past few years or will become eligible to retire within the near future. Bob Powers, the president of AEP Utilities, is currently serving as chairman of the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD). CEWD recently selected eight states to participate in the launch of a national program to train low-income, young adults for skilled jobs in the energy industry. CEWD has formed partnerships with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Utility Workers of America, and we are optimistic about its prospects. Too many Americans - - particularly young people - - are simply unaware of the well-paying jobs that currently are or will become available for skilled workers in the energy industry, in manufacturing and in other fields. We applaud CFA's campaign to ramp up training opportunities so that people can become qualified for these positions. We will be publishing a news story about AEP's support for the **10 By 20 Campaign** on our employee intranet, which will give our employees a convenient opportunity to sign the pledge and join this initiative.



Carl English, Vice Chairman **Read Full Endorsement Letter**

The **Association for Career and Technical Education** is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. ACTE is proud to announce its commitment to train 10 million workers by the year 2020 as part of the Center for America's "**10 by 20 Pledge for America.**" The campaign will officially kick-off on Labor Day. Once the campaign officially kicks off, ACTE will send an announcement encouraging members to sign the petition.



Jan Bray, Executive Director **www.ACTEonline.org**

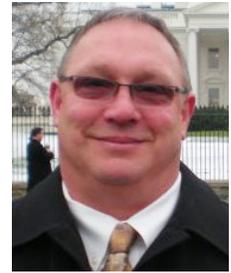
The **Collectors Foundation** takes the **10 By 20 Pledge** for America by promising to continue its efforts to develop a new generation of talented and skilled craftsmen to care for America's historic automotive and boat treasures. Socially responsible and philanthropic collector vehicle and classic boat enthusiasts use their passion to preserve the past and build this country's future. Investing nationally in vocational education and career development through the Collectors Foundation, these collector vehicle enthusiasts make a difference in the lives of young people every day – by supporting opportunities for youth to experience the joy of learning through the manual arts and to gain first-hand knowledge of the potential they have for a rewarding and successful career within the historic vehicle and classic boat industries. To read more, and to see videos of some exciting programs supported by the Foundation, visit the website at **www.collectorsfoundation.org**.



CFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose programs bring people face to face with issues that affect the future quality of life, economic prosperity and freedom in America. CFA offers a wide range of learning programs and knowledge resources about ways people can get involved to help solve America's problems. For more information, please contact, Todd Young, Chief Operating Officer at **admin@CenterForAmerica.org** or 770-317-2423. Center for America, 250 Willow Springs Drive, Roswell, GA 30075 © 2011 Center for America. All rights reserved.

www.CenterForAmerica.org

I am pleased to support the 10 By 20 Pledge Campaign and was happy to have the opportunity to **distribute information about the Pledge Campaign to over 10,000 people in Kentucky who work with the Labor Cabinet, including local unions.** I also received support from Tom West, Executive Director of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and from Dale Winkler, Executive Director-Career and Technical Education in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, who distributed the Pledge to the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education and the KY Tech Principals. In Kentucky, we understand the critical importance of training the next generation of skilled workers. I hope that other states will lend support to the Skilled Workers Pledge Campaign because it is vitally important that we spread awareness of our urgent need to train more skilled workers.



Mike Donta, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Workplace Standards in the Kentucky Labor Cabinet and Supervisor of Apprenticeship

The **Precision Metalforming Association** is the full-service trade association representing the \$113-billion metalforming industry of North America... We endorse the goal of the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** to have one million Americans in the next year sign an on-line pledge in support of training a new generation of skilled workers in America. We are pleased to join the Pledge Campaign because we understand and endorse the importance of training skilled workers in our industry. We are proud to join other trade associations, businesses, school systems and community leaders who are supporting the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** to promote training a new generation of skilled workers in America and urge others to do the same.



William E. Gaskin, President Endorsement Letter

Esquire Corporate Solutions is the leading privately-held court reporting and litigation support services provider in the U.S. We strongly support the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign** and will help Center for America exceed the goal of enlisting one million people to sign the Pledge indicating their support for expanding local skilled training opportunities. Realistically, it will take several years to expand the skilled worker training system to meet our country's future needs. By then, with millions of people retiring and taking their skills with them in the next few years, a continuing skilled worker shortage would cause many companies to shrink when we need them to grow. This is a crisis America can avoid if we mobilize now to build our training resources to match the country's future needs. We encourage everyone to recognize the stake we all have in making the 10 By 20 Campaign successful by signing the Pledge now to help make a difference. A great virtue of America is that all of us can bring our leadership and energy to challenges like this without waiting for government to tell us what to do.



Mike Saltman, President, Esquire Corporate Solutions www.EsquireSolutions.com

American Association of Managing General Agents

An insurance trade association with 500 member companies entrusted with \$27 billion in premiums annually.

www.AAMGA.org

Download John Ratzenberger's Article in the AAMGA Magazine



Join the Campaign!

Contact: Karen Kaplowitz, Vice President 888-890-4240 or kkaplowitz@newellis.com

As CEO of **Amigo Mobility International**, I am happy to support the **CFA Pledge Campaign**. Amigo Mobility designs and manufactures a complete line of power operated vehicles/mobility scooters and accessories in Bridgeport, MI to help restore independence for elderly and disabled people. Amigo's skilled workers play an essential role in producing high quality and reliable products that customers depend on. Recently, the Great Lakes Bay Manufacturer's Association, of which I'm a board member, created a mission statement to bring focus to our vision: "Attract and develop people for job opportunities in manufacturing." Our members identified finding skilled workers as one of the key detriments to increased sales and growth. I encourage all Americans to join the CFA Skilled Worker Campaign by signing the Pledge and supporting expanded skills training in their local communities.



Beth Thieme, President myamigo.com

On behalf of the **Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers®** (AWFS), I am pleased to express support for the **10 By 20 Pledge for America Campaign** on the eve of its launch. We represent a national membership of approximately 400 companies ... The wood manufacturing and related industries are among those manufacturing segments very hard hit by the lack of a new generation of trained workers to take over as the baby boomers retire. ... We sponsor a woodworking competition at our industry trade show for high school and college students that is one of the few opportunities these young people have to showcase their skills – and they are amazing! ... We have also given over a million dollars in scholarships and supported WoodLINKS USA, a wood skills program with an industry-education partnership focus, that gets local companies involved in the curriculum of this national organization that has been growing in the U.S. in the last ten years. ... We will be sharing your message and the **Pledge Campaign** with our members, to assist in championing your cause. Congratulations on your success in rallying the industries around your important goal!



Angelo Gangone, Executive Vice President www.AWFS.org

On behalf of the **Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation**, I want to express our support for the proposal being made to you by the Center for America. ... The Bradley Foundation has been a major supporter of CFA since its inception as a 501(c)(3) in 2005 and we believe that their ideas do lead to effective positive change for Americans. ... As more and more baby boomers retire, our nation's training infrastructure will not be able to meet the challenge of training enough workers to meet the projected shortage of ten million skilled workers by 2020. ... I hope you'll join the Bradley Foundation in supporting CFA so that the "**10 By 20 Pledge for America**" campaign can reach its full potential in gaining the support of millions of Americans to expand vocational training opportunities for at-risk youth and adults.



Michael W. Grebe, President and Chief Executive Officer www.BradleyFdn.org



Endorse the Campaign or Become a Sponsor!

Contact: Karen Kaplowitz, Vice President 888-890-4240 or kkaplowitz@newellis.com

On behalf of **The Orchard Foundation**, I am pleased to support the **10 By 20 Pledge for America Campaign**. In Central Louisiana, steps are already being taken to ensure that our region is “work-ready”. The Cenla Work Ready Network, launched in spring 2011, is a two-pronged system designed to link education and workforce development efforts and align them with regional economic needs. One goal of the Cenla Work Ready Network is for all Central Louisiana high school students, under-employed or unemployed adults, and incumbent workers to receive work-ready certificates. Another goal is to increase the number of students who receive industry-based certifications in our area high schools. The work is being funded by The Rapides Foundation through a grant to The Orchard Foundation, a nonprofit local education fund that works with school districts, businesses and communities to improve educational opportunities in Central Louisiana. ... We pledge our continued expansion of workforce development efforts in Central Louisiana. We will be sharing Center for America’s message and the Pledge Campaign with our Cenla Work Ready Network partners to champion your cause and support expanding skills training in our community.



Marjorie Taylor, Ed.D., Executive Director www.theorchardfoundation.org **Read Letter**

GateWay is proud to be part of an effort that supports the **Center for America’s “10 By 20 Pledge for America Campaign”** to supply a skilled workforce and nurture early stage entrepreneurs and companies.



GateWay Community College in Phoenix is one of the leading community colleges in the **Maricopa County Community College District**, the largest district in the country, that supports programming to educate a skilled workforce. As a fully accredited public institution of higher education, we emphasize both academic and career-training programs in more than 125 degree, certificate and workforce training options ... In addition, the Maricopa Skills Center, a division of GateWay, offers 16 self-paced entry-level vocational training programs for high school students and adult learners. ... Through a summer youth program called Future Builders, high school age students are introduced to all aspects of the construction industry. And through the GateWay Early College High School, students are able to earn their high school diploma and an associate’s degree or certificate of completion in any of the occupational programs we offer.

Eugene V. Giovannini, Ed.D., President www.gatewaycc.edu **Read Letter**

On behalf of the **Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry**, I write to express support for the **Center for America’s 10 By 20 Pledge** to add 10 million new skilled workers in the United States by 2020. The PA Chamber is the largest broad-based advocacy association in the Commonwealth. We represent business of all sizes ranging from Fortune 100 companies to sole proprietors crossing all industry sectors. Our members know that in order to compete in a national and increasingly global economy it is necessary to maintain a well-trained, superior workforce. Workers must be able to adapt to new economic realities and learn the best practices and skills required by modern, flexible businesses... it will be critical for quality training programs to be available to provide workers with the skills necessary to fill this new niche in the job market. Clearly there is a tangible need for skilled workers in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation that will only increase in the years and decades to come. The PA Chamber supports the Center for America’s effort to bring awareness to this challenge and provide resources to communities and suggestions for how groups might contribute to the goal of training 10 million skilled workers by 2020.



Gene Barr, Vice President, Government and Public Affairs www.pachamber.org **Read Letter**

I enthusiastically endorse the **10 By 20 Pledge Campaign**. As a **Councilwoman in the Capitol City of Trenton**, I see this campaign as a tool by which residents from the community will gain valuable experience to enhance their skills. For too long, many promising out of work and undereducated people lose the opportunity for employment or careers due to barriers that are at times overwhelming. One of my goals is to partner with as many organizations as possible to provide the tools necessary to teach and encourage skilled workers in my community. I am proud to add my name as a supporter of the Campaign and will encourage others to do the same.



Councilwoman Marge Caldwell-Wilson City Council, Trenton, New Jersey

As President of **WoodLINKS USA**, it is my pleasure to endorse the **Center for America** and the **10 by 20 Pledge Campaign**. I receive reports daily from manufacturers who cannot find skilled labor. As the economy improves, a hidden dragon will emerge as employers find it increasingly difficult to recruit and maintain skilled employees. This problem represents one of the greatest threats to the future of our country. WoodLINKS USA was formed in 1998 to bridge the gap between industry's needs and what was being taught in our nation's schools. With high school and post secondary sites in 16 states, we work with thousands of students everyday who are interested in pursuing manufacturing careers. Communicating this need to parents and counselors is critical to changing the mindset that college is the only answer for success. Skilled trades provide rewarding and well paid careers. Through regional and national in-service programs, national certification and industry support, WoodLINKS USA provides educators with the tools and curriculum to teach the next generation relevant skills.



Patrick Molzahn, President www.woodlinksusa.org

