



**For Immediate Release:**

**Visit Mitsubishi Electric Virtually at CES: [ces.mitsubishielectric.com](https://ces.mitsubishielectric.com)**

## **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Presents on How People with Disabilities Help Fill Today's High-Tech Employment Gap**

*Foundation Supports Programs that Integrate Assistive Technology and Access to Employment for Youth with Disabilities*

**Las Vegas and Washington, D.C. – January 6, 2022 – [The Mitsubishi Electric Foundation \(MEAF\)](#)** presented today at the [Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc. \(MEUS\)](#) virtual CES 2022 exhibit about the increasing availability and importance of assistive technology in providing youth with disabilities access to workforce training programs to help fill the high-tech employment gap and become valuable contributors to a sustainable, global smart society. For more than 30 years, MEAF has collaborated with schools and nonprofits to develop curricula, technological tools, experiential education and corporate alliances to prepare youth with physical, sensory and neurodiverse disabilities for the competitive workforce.

According to Kevin R. Webb, senior director at MEAF, there is a tremendous market need for talent now and in the future, especially in high-tech sectors. The [Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute](#) predicts about 2.2 million manufacturing jobs are expected to go unfilled by 2028. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#) forecasts that in the next decade, jobs in the cybersecurity industry are expected to grow 33%. Yet, according to the [Department of Labor](#), nearly 70% of people with disabilities remain unemployed.

--more--



“There is a vast, mostly untapped, source of talent waiting to fill the open jobs out there, and our role is to help educate employers that people with disabilities are trained and equipped to start those positions today,” said Webb. “For more than three decades, we have been working collaboratively with educators and the business sector on this talent solution to help achieve the goal of building an inclusive and sustainable smart society.”

The presentation addressed how MEAF is supporting organizations across the U.S. to help build a pipeline of diverse, capable and reliable talent to meet the workforce needs of today and tomorrow. Specific organizations and programs cited included:

- A Cisco®-certified 40-week training model developed by [NSITE](#), a nonprofit organization that prepares individuals who are blind and visually impaired for careers in IT and cybersecurity.
- [Career Launch](#), an innovative customer experience workforce development program at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, for people who are visually impaired and interested in Salesforce® and customer service careers.
- [Exceptional Minds](#), a nonprofit academy and studio for visual effects artists and animators with autism, providing them with valuable experience working on films such as “Black Panther,” “Rise of Skywalker,” “Avengers Endgame,” among others.
- [Project SEARCH](#) at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, providing high school internships followed by competitive job placement for youth with cognitive disabilities in the healthcare field.

Webb’s presentation is available via the organization’s digital CES 2022 booth:  
[ces.mitsubishielectric.com](https://ces.mitsubishielectric.com).

For additional information, visit:

<https://us.mitsubishielectric.com/en/about/local/csr/meaf/index.html>

###



### **About Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc.**

Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc., a US affiliate company of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, provides HVAC systems, elevators and escalators, semiconductor and power devices, and data walls. For additional information visit [us.mitsubishielectric.com/en](http://us.mitsubishielectric.com/en).

### **About Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation**

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and the Mitsubishi Electric U.S. companies, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. The Foundation has contributed more than \$20 million to organizations that are empowering young people with disabilities to lead more inclusive and productive lives. To learn more, visit [www.MEAF.org](http://www.MEAF.org).

### **Media contacts:**

Jessica Neuman  
Media Manager and Senior Account Executive  
Westbound Communications  
[jneuman@westboundcommunications.com](mailto:jneuman@westboundcommunications.com)  
Mobile: 858-382-5157

Christina O'Connell,  
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications  
Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc.  
[christina.oconnell@meus.mea.com](mailto:christina.oconnell@meus.mea.com)  
Office: 714.236.6135 / Mobile: 714.713.0145