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Ms. McNelly is a key leader in the Institute's national agenda on education reform and workforce development on behalf of U.S. manufacturers. Ms. McNelly is the chief architect of one of the Institute's flagship reform efforts, the NAM-Endorsed Advanced Manufacturing Skills Certification System. The System is a set of nationally portable, industry-recognized manufacturing skills certifications now influencing secondary and post-secondary education reform efforts in over 31 states.

Prior to joining the Institute, Ms. McNelly was a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration where she served first as the Director of the Business Relations Group and then Administrator for the Office of Regional Innovation and Transformation. Ms. McNelly also served as Senior Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, LLC, an international consulting firm specializing in assisting *Fortune 500* corporations to build strategic partnerships with government agencies in support of workforce development.