
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Alabama's Center for Manufacturing Innovation

Grant amount: \$3,548,115

Grantee: Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Key partners: Calhoun Community College, Manufacture Alabama!, WIA One-Stop Career Centers, Drake Technical College, Snead State Community College, Northeast Community College, Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, Alabama Technology Network, ACT Work Keys Center, Chambers of Commerce

Grant activities will take place in northern Alabama

Leveraged amount: \$3,535,835 from local employers, Calhoun Community College, and the state WIA system

Challenge:

The American advanced manufacturing industry is undergoing significant technological, economic, and demographic changes. In order to remain competitive globally, American manufacturers need innovative, responsive workforce training models that address the industry's key skills shortage.

Addressing the Challenge:

This project will create a Center for Manufacturing Innovation at Calhoun Community College to serve the diverse needs of northern Alabama's advanced manufacturing community. Specifically, the project will provide training in advanced manufacturing processes and technologies through modularized curriculum structures and delivery options that will allow students multiple entry/exit points. Based on input from the One-Stop Career Centers, local employers and Manufacture Alabama!, the project will target Industrial Maintenance and Machine Tool Technology. A group of 30 students will serve as the pilot group to help test the modules by providing feedback as they progress through the programs.

Projected Outcomes:

- Increased training capacity to serve the needs of northern Alabama's manufacturers over the long term.
- An Implementation Guide documenting the processes and products that can be used by other colleges to develop similar programs.
- At least one career awareness website, brochure, or CD for each program to be utilized by secondary schools, the Adult Education Program, colleges and other entities.
- At least two web-based courses that will make the curriculum readily available to a wider audience and, at times, in places other than a traditional classroom setting.
- A written plan detailing how to set up a hands-on laboratory to be used as an optional delivery method of instruction.
- A manual outlining the process for assessing and awarding credit for prior technical learning/training.