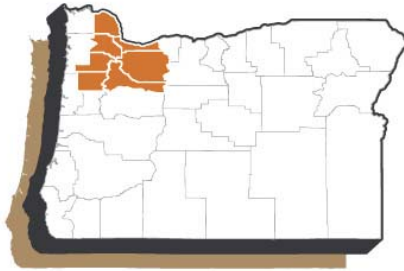


Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon



As part of the Northern Willamette Valley Transformation, project partners will transform the regional economy through strategies that are responsive to the economic landscape and advanced manufacturing employers. The strategies are grouped into six main categories:

1. Regional Workforce Council;
2. Regional Analysis;
3. Growing the Pipeline;
4. Alignment of Curriculum for Targeted Sectors;
5. Improved One-Stop Responsiveness to Advanced Manufacturing; and
6. Education/Training Fund.

The partnership is committed to regional economic growth rather than the interests of political or administrative subdivisions and will be led by the regional workforce council composed of workforce, economic development, education and business representatives. It will oversee project implementation, serve as a clearinghouse for best practices and research in talent development, advocate for public and private support for regional talent development and help align workforce resources across the region.

Partners propose to grow the pipeline of highly skilled workers for advanced manufacturing through three strategies aimed primarily at the emerging workforce:

1. Managing Career Related Learning Experiences (CRLEs);
2. High Tech U; and
3. Regional Work Readiness Certification.

The region will transform the way youth engage in career related learning experiences through a consistent regional model that combines a data system for managing CRLEs with the Oregon Career Information System that provides labor market information about occupation and career paths. The SEMI Foundation (Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International) has developed “High Tech U,” a 3-day immersion in microelectronics for high school students. Through a partnership with the foundation and the SEMI Northwest Steering Committee, the region hopes to broaden the microelectronics pipeline by engaging rural students in the High Tech U program.

Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon



Because the region presents a common labor shed to employers, the regional workforce system must adopt common tools to market work-ready talent. Workforce partners will implement a consistent model for assessing and certifying work readiness built on WorkKeys' assessment of basic mathematical, reading and information-gathering skills. This will allow the region to create a seamless integration of the basic work readiness certificate with WorkKeys' identification and certification of the specific foundational and technical skills for targeted advanced manufacturing sectors.

Partner workforce boards and the Employment Department will work together to help WorkSource Centers (One-Stops) respond to the needs of advanced manufacturing. Initiatives will include developing teams of account representatives who are sector specialists and the provision of extensive sector training to Career Specialists in WorkSource centers and youth programs.

Regional workforce partners understand that without a strong commitment to post-secondary training and education, the demand for advanced manufacturing talent will not be met. The partnership will support scholarships, Individual Training Accounts (ITA), on-the-job training (OJT) opportunities and customized training targeting advanced manufacturing. Partnering workforce boards will administer funds supporting scholarship, ITAs and OJT opportunities targeting advanced manufacturing. The regional workforce council will determine priority training and education needs and recommend specific training allocations.

The regional partnership includes four workforce boards, four key business associations and the SEMI Foundation, five regional economic development entities and key state entities.

