
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

The Pennsylvania Plastics Initiative



Grant amount: \$3,750,000

Grantee: The Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Key partners: Penn State University, Pennsylvania's local WIBs, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, Industrial Resource Centers, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology

Leveraged amount: \$1,075,000 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Grant activities will take place in Pennsylvania

Challenge:

Over the past decade, manufacturing in Pennsylvania has undergone a dramatic transformation. Jobs in the industry now require advanced skills, including an understanding of computers and integrated systems. For manufacturing companies to keep jobs in Pennsylvania and remain globally competitive, greater emphasis must be placed on innovation and training to develop a highly productive and responsive workforce.

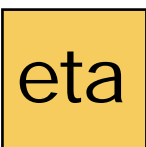
Addressing the Challenge:

This innovative project will develop a statewide network that supports multiple facets of the plastics industry's development. Specifically, ETA will fund: Incumbent Worker Training, Curriculum Transfer, Occupational Forecasting; Supply Chain Analysis; a Plastics Occupations Toolkit; Internships/Co-ops; Scholarships; and Research & Development Symposiums. The Pennsylvania WIB will play an oversight role and serve as the clearinghouse for documenting the overall impact of the initiative. Penn State will be involved in technology transfer and R&D. Local WIBs will be able to meet employers' needs and provide key support for developing Centers of Excellence.

The project addresses several workforce challenges in a critical sector of manufacturing and may serve as a model for other statewide skills-development initiatives. Similarly, the project may serve as a model of innovative partnerships between employers, educators and state and local public workforce systems. Moreover, the training curriculum is broadly applicable to the plastics industry and will be made available across the country.

Projected Outcomes:

- An increased capacity of training providers to serve 1,200 incumbent workers
- An increased pipeline of young people interested in pursuing careers in plastics by creating an internship program for students and 100 partial scholarships for a plastics-related Associate Degree.
- An industry credentialing system, skills assessment tools, an occupational forecast, a supply chain analysis, training curriculum, and career ladders and lattices.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Demonstration Grants
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