

# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *The Pennsylvania Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative*

**Grant amount:** \$1,354,585

**Grantee:** Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board

**Key partners:** Berks County Workforce Investment Board; Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation; North Central Workforce Investment Board; Regional Center for Workforce Excellence; South Central Workforce Investment Board; West Central Job Partnership; Corporation for a Skilled Workforce; Four industry-education consortia.

**Grant activities** will take place in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Leveraged amount:** \$60,000 from local employers

### **Challenge:**

Manufacturing accounts for \$64 billion of Pennsylvania's \$400-plus billion economy, the largest share of any industry sector. Although it remains central to the state's economy, Pennsylvania has lost over 100,000 manufacturing jobs in recent years because of the recession, gains in productivity, and foreign competition. In order to remain competitive in the global marketplace, Pennsylvania's manufacturers are undertaking the difficult task of transforming their processes and adopting advanced production techniques, thereby increasing their demand for highly skilled workers.

### **Addressing the Challenge:**

Pennsylvania has identified four advanced manufacturing sectors to form partnerships with, and to develop career ladders and provide training. The four consortia, which include seven workforce investment boards and over 125 companies, are the following:

- The Lumber and Wood Consortium in Lancaster County will focus on high-end custom cabinet manufacturing. This Consortium will build a curriculum and provide training to support a career ladder to master finisher, the highest paid production worker.
- The Food Processing Consortium in South Central Pennsylvania will work with Hershey Foods and local community colleges and schools to implement an advanced mechatronics curriculum to upgrade the skills of industrial electricians.
- The Plastics Consortium in Central Pennsylvania will partner with local colleges and universities to develop a standard plastics manufacturing curriculum to provide a continuous stream of trained workers.
- The Powdered Metals Consortium in Northwestern Pennsylvania will develop a skills standard and curriculum to train incumbent and new workers in plastics and metal fabrication.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- The project will train more than 200 workers in a wide variety of advanced manufacturing disciplines, and will produce curriculum that may be replicated nationwide



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Industry Demonstration Grants  
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