

Abstract

Lead Applicant: West Central Job Partnership (WCJP)

Applicant City/State: New Castle, Pennsylvania

Primary Partnership Entities: West Central Job Partnership, the administrative entity and fiscal agent under the Workforce Investment Act for Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) 145 in PA and the Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, a business-related non-profit functioning as a sector partnership workforce intermediary

Additional Key Partners: The Greater Oh-Penn Manufacturing Apprenticeship Network (The Network) is comprised of five industry-led sector partnerships including 137 very actively engaged businesses (Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, Erie Regional Manufacturer Partnership, Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing Industry Partnership of Lawrence & Mercer Counties, Advanced Diversified Manufacturing Industry Partnership in Northwest PA, and Portage County Manufacturers Coalition); Five Workforce Investment Areas (WIB Areas 17, 18, & 19 in Ohio and NW PA WIB; West Central PA WIB in PA) as well as the Ohio Apprenticeship Council, the PA Department of Labor & Industry, multiple community colleges, universities, career and technical centers, Adult Basic Education providers, and other partners through the American Job Centers.

Areas Served by the Grant: 14 contiguous counties on the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania, which include Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana, Portage, Geauga, and Ashtabula in Ohio and Mercer, Lawrence, Erie, Crawford, Venango, Clarion, Warren, Forest in Pennsylvania

Total Funding Level Requested: \$2,998,625

Project Name: *The Greater Oh-Penn Manufacturing Apprenticeship Network*

Summary of Project Activities: *The Greater Oh-Penn Manufacturing Apprenticeship Network* aims to markedly increase manufacturers' ability to meet their needs for highly-skilled and credentialed employees and willingness to use customized registered apprenticeship models. The Network will address specific gaps in available skills and training, as well as barriers to apprenticeship adoption, by leveraging existing infrastructure and partnerships and utilizing a diverse array of resources to: (a) increase manufacturing apprenticeships through strategic support functions, incentives, outreach, and education, (b) fill critical gaps through targeted recruitment of workers from specific demographics—including veterans, unemployed, underemployed and low-skilled individuals, and foster children, and (c) increase community colleges' capacity to provide more agile and responsive Related Technical Instruction.

The Network will focus on methods to ease the apprenticeship process for manufacturers by creating a multi-employer group sponsorship apprenticeship platform and streamlining apprenticeship and employee candidate recruitment, assessment, and pre-screening operations with different service providers and “on-ramps,” facilitating the process of matching appropriate candidates with manufacturers' needs.

Number of Individuals to be Served: 500 unique participants

Targeted H-1B Industry(s)/Occupations: Advanced Manufacturing with a focus on the Machining Career Pathway, leading to **Industrial Engineer and Mechanical Engineer H-1B** occupations

Contact Information for Each Partner: Sam Giannetti, Executive Director, West Central Job Partnership, 724.658.2501, samg@wcjp.org; Brian Benyo, President, Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, 330.744.1114, ext. 1225, bbenyo@brilex.com