National Dislocated Worker Grants

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (WORC II)

<u>Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority (ARC - DRA)</u>
<u>Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA-ETA-20-04)</u>

Grant Number: MI-35527-20-60-A-29

Counties of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas, and Wright

> Missouri State University 901 S. National Avenue Springfield, MO 65897-0027 Marina Loveland (417) 836-8991

Worker 4.0: Preparing Students for Today's Technician Careers

The goal of the WORC grants is to create economic prosperity and gainful employment opportunities for eligible residents in impacted ARC and DRA regions, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities. Machine manufacturing, industrial maintenance, welding and fabrication rank among the top five careers for Missouri, and the need for technicians in manufacturing, maintenance, and advanced welding is expected to increase by 43% by 2026. MSU-WP and the Greater Ozarks Center for Advanced Technology (GOCAT), a collaboration of education, industry and local government, will fill critical workforce needs by enhancing current manufacturing programs and adding a Welding and Fabrication Technology program in the next phase. These programs will create a pipeline of qualified candidates for local and regional employers, provide training for underrepresented groups, rebuild communities with a trained workforce. provide living wages, and encourage local industry expansion.





