

Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$2.5 Million for Advanced Manufacturing Training

Four workforce development consortiums will train more than 700 unemployed and under-employed residents in advanced manufacturing

WORCESTER – January 15, 2019 - Today, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined Quinsigamond Community College President Luis G. Pedraja, regional workforce leaders and state and local officials to announce \$2.5 million to four regional consortiums through the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program to address the skills gap by creating a fully coordinated manufacturing training system to connect residents to full-time employment and meet the needs of regional industry.

The [Advanced Manufacturing Training Program](#) enables regional partnerships to develop, coordinate and maintain regional, comprehensive manufacturing workforce development systems that effectively meet the needs of manufacturers. Regional systems will provide workforce development services in advanced manufacturing, including recruitment, job training, placement and supportive services.

“Advanced Manufacturing continues to be a key industry here in Massachusetts, and we are committed to supporting an industry that creates high-paying, full-time positions for residents with different skill levels,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “This program, which aligns with our relaunch of MassHire, builds on our administration’s investments in classroom infrastructure, industry innovation and regional coordination to connect residents to jobs, and address employer needs for skilled workers. Congratulations to these four regional consortiums for creating strategic, thoughtful planning efforts that will move our Commonwealth forward.”

“I am thrilled to announce these awards, which represent nearly 140 community-based organizations, employers, educational institutions and career centers, working together to tackle existing challenges facing unemployed and underemployed individuals,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “We believe this collaborative, regional and place-based approach is an exciting step forward in effective workforce development that matches residents with high-growth industries. Today’s awards are an important part of that approach, and focus on connecting underrepresented populations, including minorities, women and veterans to these opportunities in manufacturing.”

Since 2015, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program has invested more than \$5 million in workforce development, and this year’s award round nearly doubled the yearly investment over previous years. This round also further aligns the program with the efforts of the Workforce Skills Cabinet to regionalize workforce development approaches, and better streamline resource access points for job-seekers and employers. In April 2017, the Workforce Skills Cabinet launched regional teams to gather and analyze data to better understand the

needs of local employers, existing skills gap in the talent pipeline, and determine high-growth industries with long-term hiring needs.

In 2018, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development began a [statewide re-branding of MassHire](#), bringing the career center system, which previously existed under 45 different programs and names, under one brand, MassHire. Today's awardees are all qualified consortiums working in conjunction with the MassHire system.

Manufacturing represents 10% of the Commonwealth's total economic output, and the Baker-Polito Administration has committed significant energy towards supporting the future of this sector in Massachusetts. In addition to the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program, the administration created a new funding mechanism, the [Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Institute \(M2I2\)](#) to support projects convened under the federal Manufacturing USA effort. With a \$100 million commitment to investing in product development and commercialization, Massachusetts research and educational institutes are currently playing leading roles in advanced textiles, photonics, flexible-hybrid electronics, and robotics. The state's [Economic Development Incentive Program](#) also provides critical tax-credit incentives for the relocation or expansion of manufacturers in the Commonwealth.

"The involvement of so many regional and statewide employers in these consortiums is critical to their success," **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy**. "The move towards meaningful, regional collaboration cannot be underestimated in its impact to shape talent pipelines in the future. I applaud the efforts of our regional teams in collecting and analyzing statewide data and developing new regional blueprints to address the workforce needs of our diverse state."

"When we look at the future of work in Massachusetts the data shows that advanced manufacturing jobs are going to be in high demand and that we need to better adapt our employment strategies to meet that demand," **said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta**. "These grants, and the coordinated efforts between our state, federal, non-profit, and business communities, will go a long way towards helping us ensure that this critical piece of our economy continues to thrive in the Commonwealth."

"It is an economic imperative that we significantly increase the number of people with post-secondary credentials in technical fields, especially manufacturing," **said Education Secretary James Peyser**. "By partnering with community colleges and vocational and technical high schools, the consortiums receiving these grants will provide students and workers with affordable opportunities to gain knowledge, skills, and credentials in advanced manufacturing."

"QCC works closely with manufacturers to ensure a strong and solid pipeline of workers are available to help them grow and prosper", **said Quinsigamond Community College President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.** "We thank the Commonwealth and the Administration for the funding to continue our efforts to be able to train our students for the jobs of today, and tomorrow."

“The manufacturing sector is imperative to the success of Gateway Cities like Worcester and to the economy of the Commonwealth as a whole,” **said Mayor Joseph M. Petty**. “With over two-hundred thousand employees statewide, it’s imperative that we continue to invest in the next generation of workers.”

“As Worcester evolves, it’s essential to have systems in place that train our residents for employment in high-growth industries such as advanced manufacturing,” **said Worcester City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr.** “We’re fortunate to have an educational partner like Quinsigamond Community College leading the way in this effort and we thank the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued support of statewide and local workforce development initiatives.”

“Manufacturing is vital to the economic vitality of Central Massachusetts and our Commonwealth as a whole,” **said Senator Michael O. Moore**. “As advanced manufacturing grows, the need for a highly skilled workforce becomes increasingly important. Through this grant program, the region will develop a well-trained workforce that will also help ensure area employers remain competitive within the advanced manufacturing sector.”

“I’m happy to see our Commonwealth investing in expanding opportunities within manufacturing in Central Massachusetts,” **said Representative Jim O’Day**. “This investment will drive employment, grow our economy, and keep us competitive.”

“It is vital to prepare our workers for the jobs of the future and to offer them the training and new skills they will need. Manufacturing is changing, it’s more reliant on technology and computer programming to operate complex machines, but it is here to stay. Making the proper investments, like this MassHire grant, will keep those high-paying jobs in our communities and will keep manufacturing the necessary backbone of our regional economy,” **said Senator Eric P. Lesser**, who serves as Senate Chair of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus.

“The Baker-Polito Administration has shown an unwavering commitment to advanced manufacturing initiatives in the Commonwealth,” **said MassHire North Central Workforce Board Executive Director Jeff Roberge**. “Through this grant, the Central and North Central region consortium partners will work in concert to increase access to training opportunities, improve employment outcomes in this state’s cornerstone industry and help to strengthen the economic stability for the people and families in our region.”

“The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board is excited to lead a strategy in Northeast Massachusetts, with our partners in Lowell, Merrimack Valley, and North Shore, that will expand training, access, and awareness for the manufacturing sector,” **said MassHire Metro North Workforce Board’s President and CEO Sunny Schwartz**. “Our goal is to ensure that companies have the trained workforce they need to grow and prosper and that residents are aware of and training for the amazing opportunities to work in manufacturing.”

“This grant is exactly what our region needs to deliver a pipeline of well oriented, trained job prospects to the manufacturing community,” **said MassHire Greater New Bedford Chairman**

Dave Slutz. “I further commend the partnerships established among our participating Workforce Boards with each of their respective Vocational schools and Community Colleges. The training offered is the right mix and is tailored to each local area’s needs.”

“The 2019 Advanced Manufacturing Training Program presents a unique opportunity not only to respond to the immediate workforce needs of employers for competent and dependable new employees, but to develop a five year manufacturing strategic plan that will strengthen the industry’s competitiveness, create opportunities for market expansion, drive job creation, and accelerate the economic development of the West Hub Region,” **said MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board President & CEO David M. Cruise.**

In 2015, Governor Baker convened [the Workforce Skills Cabinet](#), comprised of the Executive Offices of Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and Housing and Economic Development to support a comprehensive economic growth agenda to benefit all corners of the Commonwealth. Since 2015, the Workforce Skills Cabinet has invested more than \$50 million in training equipment and educational infrastructure through the Skills Capital Grant Program, provide students and adult learners access to state-of-the-art equipment for training.

The Baker-Polito Administration also announced a new apprenticeship tax credit in the 2018 Economic Development Legislation, to encourage the creation of registered apprenticeships with employers in high-growth industries, including advanced manufacturing. This more than \$1 billion economic development legislation also included new funding to accelerate small business development, further funding for the Skills Capital Program, \$75 million in additional funding for the Skills Capital Grant Program, and new funding for the M2I2 program.

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About MassHire

MassHire was created to significantly increase both the awareness and brand affinity for the Massachusetts Workforce System. The initiative to consolidate all state career centers and workforce boards under one, recognizable name was undertaken with two interrelated objectives – help job seekers develop critical new job skills and find sustainable, satisfying employment, and help Massachusetts businesses recruit top talent to fuel growth, productivity, and profitability. The MassHire branding initiative was managed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

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Fiscal Year 2019 Advanced Manufacturing Training Program Awardees:

Central - Coordinated by MassHire North Central Workforce Board and 24 partner organizations

For the training and placement of 160 individuals in manufacturing the Central region in FY2019. And also to develop a 5-year Manufacturing Training Strategy to continued growth in

the manufacturing training system, identify a regional Manufacturing Training Capitan to be the point person for the system, and participate in statewide coordination and system development.

Northeast - Coordinated by MassHire Metro North Workforce Board and 24 partner organizations

For the training and placement of 101 individuals in manufacturing the Northeast region in FY2019, and an additional 90 people will be placed using these funds. And also to develop a 5-year Manufacturing Training Strategy to continued growth in the manufacturing training system, identify a regional Manufacturing Training Capitan to be the point person for the system, and participate in statewide coordination and system development.

Southeast - Coordinated by Greater New Bedford Workforce Board and 58 partner organizations

For the training and placement of 185 individuals in manufacturing the Southeast region in FY2019. And also to develop a 5-year Manufacturing Training Strategy to continued growth in the manufacturing training system, identify a regional Manufacturing Training Capitan to be the point person for the system, and participate in statewide coordination and system development.

West - Coordinated by MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board and 33 partner organizations

For the training and placement of 127 individuals in manufacturing the Western region in FY2019. And also to develop a 5-year Manufacturing Training Strategy to continued growth in the manufacturing training system, identify a regional Manufacturing Training Capitan to be the point person for the system, and participate in statewide coordination and system development.