



The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

December 2025

 *Happy Holidays!* 

As 2025 comes to a close, this has been a year defined by momentum, partnership, and meaningful progress for the Center to Advance Manufacturing. Across Northwest Ohio, leaders in industry, education, and workforce development have continued to reaffirm the importance of collaboration in strengthening our region's manufacturing ecosystem. Throughout the year, the Center focused on creating practical value for employers while expanding opportunities for students and educators to engage with modern manufacturing.

A central theme of 2025 was deepening employer engagement and supporting workforce development efforts. From our Advanced Manufacturing Summit and Legislative Roundtable to hands-on sessions like the TechCred "*Complete How-To*" workshop, we worked to share timely information, actionable tools, and greater visibility into available training pathways. Our webinar series continued to grow, covering industry-informed topics ranging from intelligent automation and energy to YouScience, each designed to help companies better understand emerging trends and operational challenges. This work has been shaped by the engagement of our manufacturing partners, whose insights into evolving needs and challenges help inform our programming and priorities. Together, we are contributing to a more connected, industry-informed manufacturing landscape across Northwest Ohio.

We also strengthened connections between education and industry by expanding student engagement opportunities across our three partner institutions. This year, we featured monthly student spotlights highlighting internships and co-ops; coordinated tours for students to visit manufacturing and logistics companies; and assisted faculty and employers in pairing students with applied projects that aligned classroom learning with real-world needs. These efforts help reinforce a resilient talent pipeline and expose students to meaningful career pathways in manufacturing.

Finally, our work in 2025 underscored the value of collaboration across the region. Whether helping companies access training resources, facilitating conversations between manufacturers and faculty and staff at our partner institutions, or sharing data insights that inform decision-making, the Center serves as a connector between industry and education. The relationships strengthened this year among employers, educators, economic development organizations, and community partners reflect the collaborative spirit driving manufacturing initiatives across Northwest Ohio.

As we wrap up the year, we are grateful for the engagement of manufacturers, educators, and community partners across the region. We appreciate the time, insight, and collaboration shared throughout the year. Thank you for your involvement throughout 2025, and we wish you a peaceful holiday season and a successful start to the new year.

TechCred Employer Workshop at Owens Community College (Toledo Campus)

We recently hosted our first *TechCred: The Complete How-To* session at Owens Community College, where employers received a practical, step-by-step overview of the Ohio TechCred process, from determining eligibility and selecting credentials to preparing documentation and planning ahead for upcoming application rounds. The session concluded with a tour of Owens' Dana Center, highlighting the hands-on labs supporting regional workforce training.



If you missed this session or would like a refresher, we're hosting a second event on January 21 at Owens Community College's Findlay campus. This fast-paced, employer-focused session is designed to help organizations confidently navigate TechCred and maximize available training opportunities.



Register by clicking the graphic below.

JOIN US FOR

TECHCRED: THE COMPLETE HOW-TO

All the details, all your questions, one practical session



Featuring:



Jeri Steinbrook
Workforce Training Coordinator
Center to Advance Manufacturing



Charlene Page
Director of Workforce & Economic Development
Owens Community College

FINDLAY-AREA CAMPUS:
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
8 AM - 10 AM

REGISTER HERE



University of Findlay All Hazards Training Center Open Enrollment Courses



The All Hazards Training Center (AHTC), established by the University of Findlay, is a national leader in the development and delivery of customized environmental, health, and safety training programs. While the AHTC offers several open enrollment opportunities throughout the year, the Confined Space Training Series below is especially relevant for manufacturers and employers with safety-critical operations.

Confined Space Entrant/Attendant/Supervisor

Designed for general industry and construction workers, this course provides a basic understanding of OSHA Confined Space Regulation 29 CFR 1910.146 and associated regulatory requirements. Participants will be able to identify and classify a permit-required confined space and describe the elements of the entry permit process and associated permit generation. Participants will understand the requirements and expectations of the entrant, attendant, and entry supervisor roles and function in those roles during simulated confined space entries.

Open Enrollment Dates: February 17, July 14, October 20

[Learn more here](#)

Confined Space Basic Rescue I

This course introduces the employer's role and responsibility as it pertains to equipping and facilitating a confined space rescue team and written procedures. Participants will be instructed in techniques of safe and effective confined space rescue for both non-entry and limited entry rescue in a hands-on approach. Trainees will implement safe rescue procedures inclusive of isolation, ventilation, atmospheric monitoring, and the use of associated rescue equipment and retrieval systems. Trainees will be instructed on the limitations of confined space entry rescue as per national confined space rescue standards.

Open Enrollment Dates: February 18, July 15, October 21

[Learn more here](#)

Confined Space Basic Rescue II

Building on the skills introduced in Basic Rescue I, this advanced course further develops participants' understanding of non-entry and limited-entry rescue techniques in a realistic, scenario-driven environment. Participants will utilize a basic incident management system to safely and effectively manage a confined space emergency and will implement safe entry rescue procedures inclusive of advanced ventilation, atmospheric monitoring, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) selection and use. Trainees will acquire the basic skills necessary to develop a rescue plan and execute the plan during scenario-driven practical exercises.

Open Enrollment Dates: February 19, July 16, October 22

[Learn more here](#)

For additional information about the AHTC and upcoming courses, click [here](#).

Bowling Green State University IMAP Training Opportunities

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) is an approved provider for Ohio's Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP), offering industry-recognized training at no cost to eligible Ohio residents through state funding. As an IMAP provider, BGSU covers all training costs, each valued at approximately \$2,500, to help learners build in-demand skills that support career growth or entry into manufacturing and related industries.

The Spring 2026 IMAP trainings are delivered fully online and self-paced across four-week sessions, with optional live trainer office hours and interactive support. Courses available include topics such as Quality Production, Supply Chain Management and Design, Quality Practices and Measurement, Warehouse and Distribution Center Layout, and Manufacturing Process Control.

Explore eligibility requirements and see a full list of active Spring 2026 IMAP trainings [here](#).

Driving Investment, Jobs, and Growth in Northwest Ohio

In this competitive global economy, the Regional Growth Partnership has continued executing an aggressive strategy aimed at driving new corporate investment and jobs to Northwest Ohio. As a 100% private economic development organization leading the 17-county Northwest Ohio region, the RGP is focused on meeting the site selection needs of corporate clients looking to expand operations or locate a new facility.



The RGP concentrates its business development efforts on five core industries that drive our region's growth based on inherent capacities within those sectors: advanced manufacturing, automotive, energy, food/ag processing, logistics & distribution. These cluster industries provide new and existing businesses in Northwest Ohio opportunities to expand, grow, flourish and prosper in this global marketplace.

That business success is built upon a region that has prioritized product development, ensuring we have shovel-ready sites to meet the speed-to-market demands of companies. JobsOhio, the state's lead economic development organization, has created several dynamic incentive programs to spur site development, maintaining our state's competitiveness for projects.

Specifically in the manufacturing sector, our industry assets have helped generate nearly \$5 billion of corporate investment in Northwest Ohio over the last five years. Manufacturing's Gross Regional Product in this region is \$11.6 billion, which represents 24% of the state total. For the RGP, we market and sell those assets to our key target audiences, including site consultants and industry site location decision makers. Undoubtedly, the most significant asset we offer businesses is a trained, educated, committed workforce. We know how to make things here. This region possesses the very best of the manufacturing mindset because it's ingrained in the business community, taught by the educational institutions and embraced by the people. Our business development efforts are focused on direct engagement, such as market visits and conferences. An annual highlight is the RGP FAM Tour, where we host a dozen national site consultants for three days during the summer, showcasing the region's business advantages and offerings.

Some major manufacturing projects announced this year in Northwest Ohio include:

- First Quality Tissue - \$985 million investment, 407 new jobs
- Revere Plastics Systems - \$111 million investment, 378 new jobs
- Engineered Plastic Components - \$13.5 million investment, 150 new jobs

For the logistics sector, Northwest Ohio has a built-in advantage with its central location in the Midwest marketplace. Businesses can reach nearly 60% of the North American market in a day's drive. We also have an extensive transportation network, primarily the intersection of three of the country's most traveled interstates. The state of Ohio has also created a business-friendly environment conducive to logistics operations, as Ohio has the second lowest effective tax rate in the U.S. for distribution centers. Some of the biggest brand name companies in the country have distribution centers in our region including Best Buy, Lowe's, Menards, and Home Depot. Companies within the industry have invested nearly \$1 billion over the past five years, including Amazon, UPS, and Keller Logistics.

Moving forward, the RGP is committed to pursuing what could be the largest economic development opportunity ever for Northwest Ohio. Trillions of dollars will be invested in infrastructure for AI data centers in the U.S. over the next decade. This region has the attributes those companies desire, including land, water, and energy. These development projects will bring thousands of construction jobs, high-paying permanent jobs, and

the likelihood of attracting other high-tech industries, with the accompanying white-collar jobs.



This month's Knowledge Hub feature was authored by Dean Monske, President & CEO of the Regional Growth Partnership, since February of 2011. Prior to his appointment, Dean was the Deputy Mayor for External Affairs in the administration of Toledo Mayor Michael P. Bell. Dean's area of responsibility was coordinating the City of Toledo's economic development efforts. Mr. Monske also served as Vice President with the Regional Growth Partnership from 2006-2009. His responsibilities as Vice President included engaging investors in the business community, working with regional partners from both the private and public sector responsible for business retention and expansion, and serving as a face-to-face contact across the country promoting Northwest Ohio. He also served as the Executive Director of the Oregon Economic Development Foundation.

Dean is a past board member for the Ohio Tax Credit Authority, past Executive Board member and Region 2 Director for the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) and past President of the Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association (NORED). He was born and raised in Toledo and is an alumnus of Bowling Green State University.



Internship Opportunities

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) offers two state-supported internship programs that help companies connect with college talent while significantly offsetting wage costs, an effective way to build capacity, support innovation, and strengthen future workforce pipelines.

Ohio Export Internship Program

Support international growth while developing future talent through this program, which matches small and medium-sized businesses with college students who have completed export-focused coursework. Participating companies receive a 50% reimbursement of intern wages, making it easier to explore or expand export activities while mentoring emerging professionals.



The program has a strong history of supporting Ohio businesses in building export capacity and creating pathways from internship to full-time employment.

Bowling Green State University's Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business is the only university partner in Northwest Ohio, helping connect regional companies with qualified student interns. Learn more and apply [here](#).

College Technology Internship Program

Access technical talent while reducing internship costs through this program, which supports Ohio technology companies, as well as companies with a defined technology need, by reimbursing up to two-thirds of an intern's wages (maximum \$7,500). These paid internships provide students with hands-on experience while helping employers advance technical, engineering, and innovation-focused projects.

Company applications open from January 5, 2026 through January 30, 2026. For full details, click [here](#).



Lunch & Learn Webinar

**THE SPACE IN BETWEEN:
MASTERING CHANGE IN
FAST-PACED
MANUFACTURING**

Discover how manufacturing teams can harness strategic pauses to move from reacting under pressure to responding with confident clarity, turning chaotic change into deliberate action that delivers stronger results.

Thursday, March 19
12:00 PM

REGISTER HERE



Steven H. Cady, Ph.D.
Professor & Founding Director
of the Organization Development &
Change Program in the
Schmidthorst College of Business,
Bowling Green State University

Contact Us



Kassie Cooper
Director
kassiec@bgsu.edu



Jeri Steinbrook
Workforce Training
Coordinator
jeris@bgsu.edu



Danielle Sidebottom
Assistant to the
Executive Director
dsidebo@bgsu.edu