



# The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

January 2024

Dear Associates,

Happy New Year! As is traditional with the change in the calendar, it is a good time to reflect on the progress of 2023 and the plans for 2024. Over the past 12 months the Center to Advance Manufacturing has grown from a vision to connect industry with higher education to a fully functioning office.

The Center has worked to build strong relationships with local economic development professionals through monthly communications and analysis. Additionally, the Center provides information on county economies, imports, and workforce data. This data has become a tool for Economic Development Directors to enhance their retention and expansion efforts as well as a way to track changes to their workforce.

The Center is also directly supporting industry. In 2023 we assisted companies with improving manufacturing processes, leadership training, language training for non-English speaking associates, supply chain analysis, access to students, and incumbent worker training.

2023 also saw the establishment of several programs and partnerships, some of which are noted here. Owens Community College established a CDL program in Findlay, BGSU was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to establish certificate training for manufacturing, and Owens and the Center each applied for Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP) training dollars from the State of Ohio. In addition, the University of Findlay is working to establish an electric vehicle training program with the Center for Automotive Research.

The Center is working on several new initiatives for 2024 as well. In February, we will be onboarding a Workforce Training Coordinator. This position is intended to be utilized by industry, economic development, and education across Northwest Ohio to leverage workforce training programs. For example, it is our goal to significantly increase the amount of Tech Cred, IMAP, On-the-Job-Training, Incumbent Worker Training, and other programs to support manufacturing training. All too often we hear multiple reasons why the programs are underutilized. The Workforce Training Coordinator position will establish the “easy” button for users and providers to access the programs. In addition, the Center is working closely with the Northwest Ohio Innovation Consortium to submit an Ohio Innovation Hub application. Earlier this week the Toledo Blade published an article detailing our involvement in the process (<https://buff.ly/3NNh0Iz>). It has been an impressive and rewarding experience to see Northwest Ohio businesses and institutions collaborate on this application. The State of Ohio will award the Innovation Hub funding later in 2024. Later this month the Center will host its first quarterly Advisory Board meeting with representatives from Dana, First Solar, Grob, Ohio Logistics, Principle Business Enterprises, Roki, ValGroup, Whirlpool, and Yarder Manufacturing.

As always, please feel free to reach out at any time to learn more about the Center and how we can assist your organization. We look forward to an exciting 2024 for Northwest Ohio manufacturing.

Sincerely,



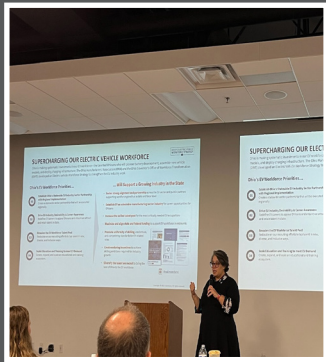
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'T. R. Mayle'.

Tim Mayle  
Executive Director  
419-788-0490



## NOMA Quarterly Meeting

Ford Weber, Program Manager, attended the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Alliance's (NOMA) quarterly meeting in early December. Presenters from the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, and Principle Business Enterprises shared their insights and provided industry updates. The meeting provided a great opportunity for networking and collaboration among manufacturing professionals.



## Wood County Economic Development Commission

Weber attended the Wood County Economic Development Commission Membership meeting. Sandy Spang, Executive Director of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, presented on regional economic development strategies.



## Center for Automotive Research (CAR)

Representatives from the Center, CAR, and the University of Findlay All Hazards Training Center met in mid-December to discuss the handling of hazardous materials in relation to electric vehicles. Areas of particular interest include lithium-ion batteries, emergency response, and recycling. The lithium-ion batteries are expected to be manufactured in Ohio, and future staff will need to have the proper training to proactively and reactively handle these materials. An in-depth discussion was held on future procedures and policies, training plans, and research opportunities.

In addition, Mayle and Weber attended the Center for Automotive Research's December Drives and Holiday Vibes event in Detroit. The program was held in a newly renovated co-working and maker space in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. The program content included updates on automotive sales forecasts and the challenge of ramping up electric vehicle production.

Over the next six years, the number of workers employed in electric vehicle manufacturing will increase ten fold, which will require a high degree of workforce training and re-training. CAR is preparing a report on the necessary skills electric vehicle manufacturers will require, which should be published within the next several months.



**CENTER FOR  
AUTOMOTIVE  
RESEARCH**

### Incumbent Worker Training Program



The Center has been working to share information and encourage employers to utilize Ohio's Incumbent Worker Training program (IWT).

IWT provides employers with the opportunity to build and maintain a quality workforce and increase competitiveness by providing funding to upskill their current employees. This gives them opportunities for advancement and increased wages.

Additionally, IWT is a work-based program designed to ensure that current employees of a company can acquire the skills necessary to retain employment, advance within the company, and/or acquire skills necessary to avoid a layoff.

Contact your county's Ohio Means Jobs Department for additional information!

### TechCred is open!

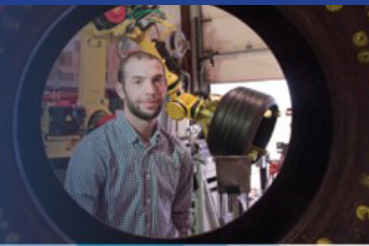
TechCred helps Ohioans learn new skills and helps employers build a stronger workforce with the skills needed in a technology-infused economy. Many of these trainings can be completed online!

These credentials take a year or less to complete and prepare current and future employees for the jobs Ohio employers need.

For details and to apply, visit: <https://techcred.ohio.gov>



### Ohio Export Internship Program



The Ohio Export Internship Program matches businesses interested in growing exports with highly motivated college students who have taken export-focused coursework.

The Ohio Department of Development offers participating small to medium-sized businesses a 50 percent reimbursement for the wages of the intern.

The internships have a track record of helping businesses achieve export success: 466 students have interned at Ohio companies, resulting in 152 internship extensions, 81 new job positions, and 424 new international markets, distributors, or customers.

The BGSU Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business is the only university partner in Northwest Ohio. Please feel free to share this information with companies that may be interested.

Companies can find full details at:  
<https://development.ohio.gov/business>



Center for Regional Development Director, Nichole Fifer, presenting at a past State of the Region Conference.

### Save the Date!

Bowling Green State University's  
Center for Regional Development  
will be hosting the  
**2024 State of the Region Conference**

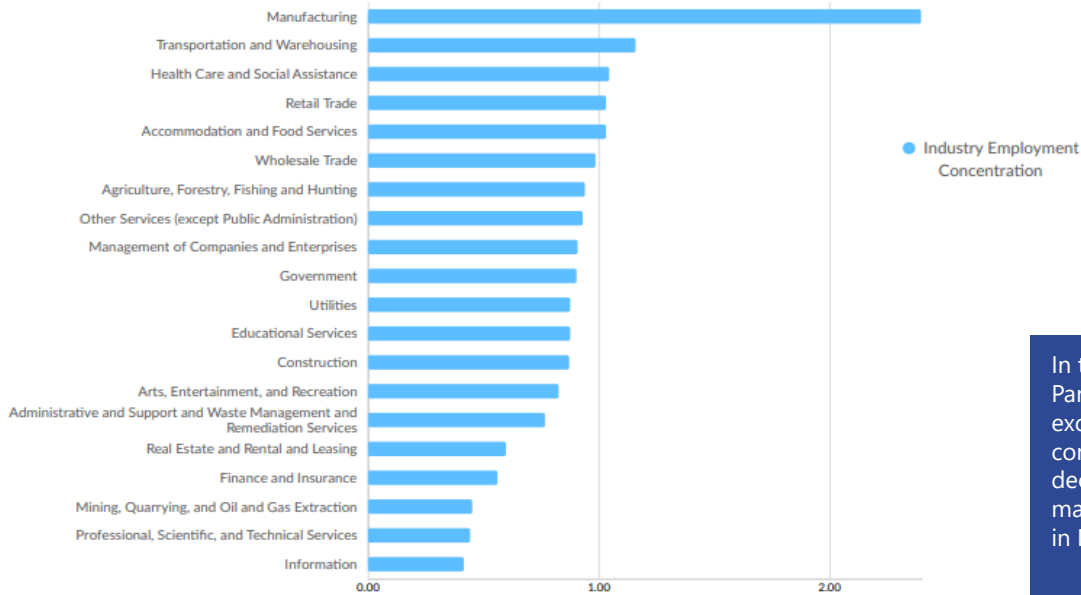
**Monday, March 11**  
8:00 AM - Noon  
Bowen Thompson Student Union

### Upcoming Events

The Center is excited to share that the Center for Regional Development's annual State of the Region Conference registration is open! This conference brings elected officials, economic developers, business leaders, and other regional stakeholders together to discuss issues critical to the future vitality of our region and its people.

For additional information  
and to register, visit:  
<https://forms.bgsu.edu/233194776844974>

## Top Industry Employment Concentration



17 counties

In the 17 Counties of the Regional Growth Partnership territory, manufacturing far exceeds other industries for employment concentration. While the number of jobs has decreased by 1% in the past 5 years, manufacturing still remains the top industry in Northwest Ohio.

Source: Lightcast

Industry	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2022 Employment Concentration	2022 Earnings Per Worker	2022 GRP
Manufacturing	110,604	109,435	-1,169	-1%	2.40	\$85,634	\$24.14B

## Center Administrative

### We're Hiring!

We're currently accepting applications for a Workforce Training Coordinator.

The Workforce Training Coordinator will:

- Process referrals for workforce training services including referrals for public funding programs such as TechCred and IMAP
- Assist companies in evaluating program eligibility and technical compliance as well as administrative elements such as preparing and processing program-related documents, tracking program deadlines, and essentially providing high contact "concierge" administrative services to ensure program compliance and successful funding.
- Track programmatic projects and overall program performance and regularly reports on these to the Executive Director.
- Interface with funding agencies to stay abreast of program rules and trends.
- Work with staff as appropriate to identify companies to which workforce training programs should be marketed and assists in that marketing including meeting with clients as necessary.

For full details and to apply, visit: <https://buff.ly/487bIQ4>

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### Contact Us Today!

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