



The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

September 2024

Dear Associates,

Advancements continue to be made in the manufacturing industry each day: materials, training, automation, safety, quality, energy, efficiency, purchasing, supply chain, and countless others. Each company has their own form of continuous improvement based on their available resources. Commonly, research is an area that companies do not have the in-house expertise to perform. The Center to Advance Manufacturing has the resources to be your research partner.

For nearly two years I have served as Executive Director of the Center, and I continue to learn new things each day about the capabilities of the faculty, staff, graduate assistants, and students of our educational partners (Bowling Green State University, the University of Findlay, and Owens Community College) in supporting research in manufacturing. In that same two-year period, I have seen several wins in partnering with our faculty for research, most notably the recently announced Northwest Ohio Glass Innovation Hub. This initiative is funded through a \$31.1 million grant from the Innovation Hubs program administered by the Ohio Department of Development and will build upon the region's existing industrial and research capabilities to solidify Ohio as a global leader in glass technology. In addition, the Center has been involved in coordinating several research projects, including having students conduct a supply chain analysis of imported materials to identify reshoring opportunities, having faculty assist with the digitization of manufacturing processes, and helping industry assess the impact and implementation of artificial intelligence.

As I am out meeting with companies and stakeholders, I frequently am sharing, "Did you know?" information about our educational partners. Higher education has earned a strong reputation for building talent pipelines, but I also want companies to engage our faculty and researchers in computer science, chemistry, physics, electronics, robotics, sustainability, and other areas related to manufacturing. For example, in 2023 Dr. Jayaraman Sivaguru at BGSU developed an eco-friendly compound that can be used in photocuring systems to strengthen surfaces on objects such as lenses, automotive coatings and semiconductors ([read more here](#)). It's important to note that the programs of our partners are not only educating the talent of the future for manufacturing but are also rich in faculty and equipment to partner with industry. Are you looking to make your product more sustainable? Would you like to make better day-to-day decisions based on data? Are you seeking to improve your manufacturing process through automation, material handling systems, or optical sensors for quality control? The Center has the resources to meet those needs.

Faculty members are also skilled at identifying external research funding. The National Science Foundation, Economic Development Administration, and many other public and private entities can be leveraged for your research. Research projects can be embedded within a class or conducted as stand-alone projects. Each company has different needs, and we would like to explore whether the Center could offer a solution. It is common for higher education institutions to enter into master research agreements and non-disclosure agreements with industry. If you are looking to build your research team and include world-class researchers, a large team of graduate students, and state-of-the-art labs and equipment, along with the support of three collaborating schools, feel free to reach out to the Center.

Research can be expensive and time consuming, but it is also necessary to innovate and advance manufacturing. The Center looks forward to determining how our assets can align with your strategic vision.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'T. R. Mayle'.

Tim Mayle
Executive Director
419-788-0490



Findlay Hancock Chamber of Commerce Fresh Brewed Networking Event

Center Program Manager Ford Weber presented regional labor market data at the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Fresh Brewed networking event. He shared that Northwest Ohio has three times the national average of manufacturing jobs. Additionally, Charles Bills, President/CEO of Ohio Logistics, provided details on his company's recent expansion.

Ford Weber and Charles Bills, Center Advisory Board Member, pose together after their presentations.



International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Conference

In mid-September, Mayle and Weber attended the IEDC annual conference in Denver. They participated in many informative sessions with topics including AI, workforce, and advanced manufacturing. Tim and Ford also ran into some familiar faces from JobsOhio, the Ohio Economic Development Association, and Findlay Hancock County Economic Development.



The Mayor of Denver, Mike Johnston addressing the crowd at IEDC.

Ford Weber and Tim Mayle pose with Ohio Economic Development Association President, David Zak and Findlay Hancock Economic Development Director of Strategic Initiatives, Chris Keller at IEDC.



Midwest United States Japan Association Conference

In early September, Mayle attended the Midwest U.S. Japan Association (MWJA) Conference in Columbus, joining over 300 professionals from Japan, and over 250 from the Midwest. Japan is the largest foreign direct investor in Ohio, with a significant impact on the manufacturing industry.

There are over 73,000 Ohioans employed by approximately 850 Japanese-owned companies.

In addition, Saitama Governor Motohiro Ono visited the University of Findlay to celebrate their partnership in education. Manufacturing in a global environment requires strong partners, sound policy, and collaboration.



Mayle had the opportunity to network with many MWJA conference attendees.

Mayle and Jeff Reed, Director of Government and Industry Relations for Honda, attended the Welcome Gala for the MWJA Conference in the Ohio Statehouse.



Attendees of the partnership celebration gathered in front of the arch at the University of Findlay for a group photo.



Custom Glass Solutions

Center staff and representatives from the Northwest Ohio Innovation Consortium, visited Custom Glass Solutions in Fostoria. Their leadership team conducted a plant tour, followed by a roundtable discussion with the group. The meeting resulted in several opportunities for collaboration including process improvement.

Economic Development Directors Meeting

Center staff met with local economic development directors during the Ohio Economic Development Association conference and shared preliminary data from the Center's regional automotive study led by Ford Weber and the Center for Automotive Research (CAR). With the help of our partnering economic development agencies, we have identified over 200 automotive-related manufacturing facilities in Northwest Ohio. The Center and CAR are gathering more information through company surveys.



Center Events



ANNUAL EVENT

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SUMMIT

Thursday, October 10, 2024
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Findlay Country Club

Featuring:



Keynote: What's Driving your Business?
Bryan Clem
Senior Manager, Risk Management
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.



Breakout Session Facilitator
Chris Ostrander
Owner
CEO⁸ Consulting



Panel Facilitator
Lydia Mihalik
Director
Ohio Department of Development



Breakout Session Facilitator
Dean Monske
President & CEO
Regional Growth Partnership

Register Today!

Advance registration required.
Limited seats available.

Contact Kassie Cooper at
kassiec@bgsu.edu for registration details

Owens Community College Jill of All Trades™ Event

In December of 2023, Owens Community College hosted the first-ever Jill of All Trades™ event in the United States. Sixty local high school students, from grades 9 to 12, attended and gained valuable experience. The program aims to meet future workforce demands in skilled trades by exposing young people to non-traditional trades and apprenticeships. Through this effort, Owens Community College sought to inspire youth, increase enrollment in trades and apprenticeship programs, retain skilled workers, expand its capabilities, and promote greater gender diversity in the skilled trades industry.



The 2024 Jill of All Trades™ event at Owens Community College is set for October 24, 2024. For additional information on this event, visit owens.edu/jillofalltrades/.

Ohio TechCred

We are excited to share that two companies, with the assistance of our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook, during the July TechCred application period, were awarded \$30,000 for training. These companies will conduct their training with Owens Community College to upskill their employees in programmable logic controls and motor controls.

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the opportunity to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. The Center recently hosted a webinar featuring presenters from the Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, providing an overview of TechCred and a question-and-answer session. To view a recording of the webinar, visit centertoadvancemanufacturing.org/webinars/.

The next application round for TechCred will run from November 1 through November 30. Need assistance applying? Contact our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook!

For full program details, visit techcred.ohio.gov.



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