



The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

Summer 2024

Dear Associates,

Happy Summer! This season has proven to be a busy one at the Center to Advance Manufacturing and we're excited to share a lot of great news. First, in early July, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Development, announced the award of \$31.3 MM in Innovation Hub funding to invest in a partnership between higher education and the glass industry (*see further details on page 3*). Second, the window for the twenty-seventh round of TechCred funding opened July 1 and our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook is working with many companies to identify training needs and submit applications before the July 31 deadline. Also, the Center is officially ramping up an automotive manufacturing study covering the seventeen counties in the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) territory. The Center will work with all seventeen Economic Development Directors to identify automotive companies in their county and will collaborate with the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) to conduct an opportunity and threat analysis on the companies. Finally, in late June we hosted our second annual legislative roundtable with leaders from the Ohio Legislature, manufacturing, higher education, and economic development (*pictured right*).

The legislative roundtable discussion was a valuable experience for all who attended. The meeting afforded the Center an opportunity to share our successes with the individuals who have funded the Center, the State of Ohio. It was also a great opportunity to remind everyone that manufacturing and logistics are a critical component of Northwest Ohio's economy. These sectors are experiencing generational challenges with supply chains, talent attraction, energy costs, automation, and more, and this meeting allowed for open discussion on such topics. Coordinating a meeting like this is logistically difficult and can be time consuming. A colleague recently posed the question, "Is it worth it to pull everyone together?" The answer is, absolutely! At the meeting, leadership from The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Department of Development, and JobsOhio were able to hear firsthand from industry and higher education. Working together, our voices will help shape policies and programs to support continued investments in manufacturing. In addition, relationships were formed between manufacturing peers to share best practices for development, workforce training, and research. Furthermore, legislators highlighted new programs like the Infrastructure Development Rider, to support companies as they need to expand infrastructure within their facility. Following the meeting, further discussions were held to address how companies are testing artificial intelligence (AI) and what policies they are implementing to encourage associates to utilize AI. We look forward to hosting more events like these in the future.

The amount of activity this summer demonstrates that the economy, legislators, and higher education do not take a summer break. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for your commitment to support manufacturing and logistics in Northwest Ohio. Our collective efforts are resulting in new jobs, capital investment, access to students, research, upskilling, and much more, all resulting in making Northwest Ohio a manufacturing powerhouse.



Tim Mayle
Executive Director
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Regional Growth Partnership Site Selection Meeting

Regional Growth Partnership representatives, Mayle, and other Economic Development directors welcomed Rural Growth Strategies to Northwest Ohio to discuss site selection factors including workforce, energy, supply chain, and more.

Meeting attendees posing in front of the Toledo skyline near the Maumee River.



Yarder Manufacturing Groundbreaking

In early June, Mayle attended the groundbreaking for the new Yarder Manufacturing building in Monclova Township. It was exciting to see one of our Advisory Board businesses continue to expand their footprint as well as many Northwest Ohio manufacturers represented in the construction.



Executive Vice President, Matt Yarder and his team breaking ground at their new site.

Activate Innovate Conference

Center staff spent the day learning at the Activate Innovate conference that was hosted in Toledo in mid-June. Smart Manufacturing panels covered topics such as artificial intelligence, upskilling, automation, and safety throughout the event.



Friends of Findlay

Mayle had the privilege of presenting information about the Center to the "Friends of Findlay" community organization in mid-May.

The "Friends of Findlay" group is comprised of twelve Northwest Ohio Japanese-based manufacturing companies, who meet to establish relationships among members and residents in the region. These companies employ 3,393 associates in the area. Tim shared how the Center can support their global manufacturing operations.



Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Association Meeting

Each quarter the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Association (NOMA) brings together the region to discuss best practices.

The May meeting covered safety, quality, and workforce initiatives. In addition, several presenters spotlighted the University of Toledo's College of Engineering programs and attendees were able to tour the facility.



Megan Stretavski, NOMA (pictured left) and Bryan Johnson, Miami Industrial Trucks (pictured right) presenting at the May NOMA meeting.



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Ohio's TechCred Application Period is Open!

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. Businesses of all sizes, from any industry, are eligible for up to \$30,000 per round. Employers who submit successful applications will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per credential when current or prospective employees complete eligible technology-focused credentials. The current TechCred application period is open and will close on July 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Training for the July application must be completed within 12 months from the award date.

The next window to apply will begin in September.

Need assistance applying? Contact our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook! For more information, visit techcred.ohio.gov.



Northwest Ohio Glass Innovation Hub

In early July, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) Director Lydia Mihalik announced the creation of the Northwest Ohio Glass Innovation Hub. Supported by more than \$31.3 million in state funding, this collaboration between the Northwest Ohio Innovation Consortium (NOIC), industry partners, higher education, and economic development will strengthen Ohio's leadership in the glass and solar industries. Headquartered at O-I Glass in Perrysburg, the "Glass Center for Excellence" will drive job growth and innovation in glass science, engineering, technology, and production in the region for years to come. The Center is proud to have played a role in supporting NOIC over the past year and will continue to provide assistance with manufacturing workforce, policy, supply chain, and operational challenges in relation to the innovation hub. For full announcement details, visit: <https://buff.ly/3SchWs9>



Pictured above: Ohio Governor Mike Dewine, Interim University of Toledo President Matt Schroeder, Bowling Green State University President Rodney Rogers, NOIC Executive Director Roger Smith, O-I CEO John Haudrich, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, ODOD Director Lydia Mihalik, Center Executive Director Tim Mayle



Cooper Tire

Mayle and Center Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook, along with representatives from Findlay Hancock Economic Development and Raise the Bar Hancock County, visited Cooper Tire to learn about their manufacturing operations. A productive conversation was held detailing how each organization can collaborate to assist Cooper Tire.

Mennel Milling

Center staff coordinated a visit to the Mennel Milling Company's Research and Development facility with faculty from Bowling Green State University's Chemistry Department and the University of Findlay's College of Sciences to discuss food processing. Chemistry is a critical component to manufacturing and Mennel Milling's research and development team is always looking for ways to improve and innovate their products and processes. The group discussed where support can be provided to assist in continuous improvement through students, faculty, and staff. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of the facility.



Honda

In early June, Mayle and Weber traveled to Honda's North American headquarters in Marysville. The group discussed ways to increase partnerships that develop talent through access to engineering students, the utilization of training programs, and support for their Northwest Ohio supply chain. Following the visit, Honda Associates attended our legislative roundtable discussion to further increase collaboration with the Center.

THK Manufacturing of America

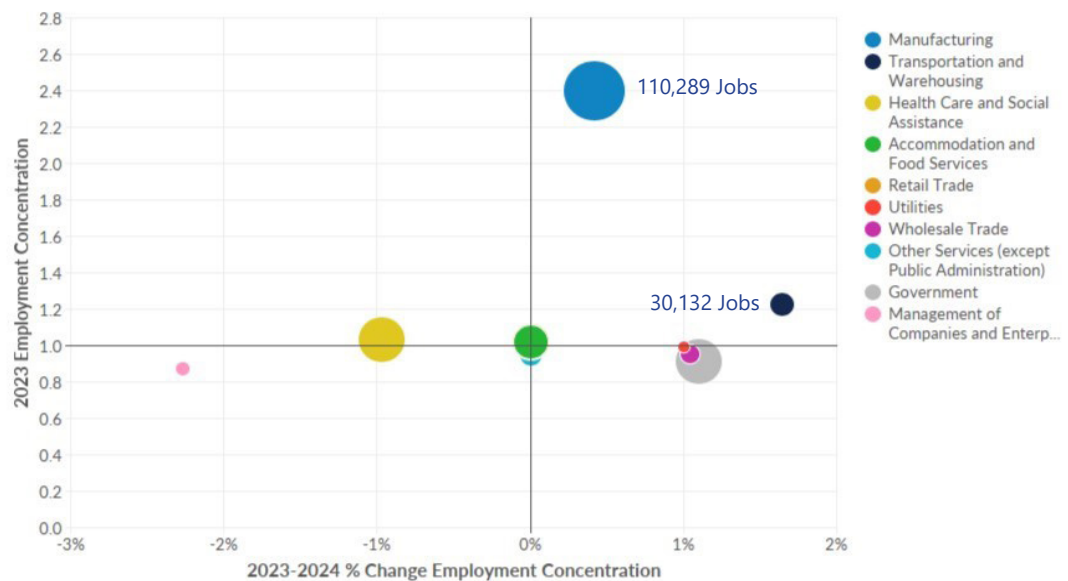
Mayle and University of Findlay Professor, Hiro Kawamura recently visited THK Manufacturing of America in Columbus. THK's products support the semiconductor and auto industries. After connecting at a Japan-America Society of Central Ohio event, representatives from THK were interested in learning about how the Center can connect their business with higher education.





The graph demonstrates the importance of manufacturing, transportation, and logistics in Northwest Ohio. Manufacturing in 2024 is the largest segment of the economy representing 110,289 jobs. Transportation and Warehousing employs 30,132 people. Each segment has seen growth year after year while other segments of the economy including healthcare, food services, and retail have seen a decline in the employment concentration.

Highest Industry Employment Concentration



Source: LightCast

Upcoming Webinar



FREE WEBINAR:

All Hazards Approach to Safety in Manufacturing

Tuesday, July 23 | 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

FEATURING PRESENTERS FROM:



The All Hazards Approach to Safety in Manufacturing webinar will cover various topics including: confined space training, OSHA, hazardous materials, active shooter training, and emergency response planning.

Experts from the All Hazards Training Center at the University of Findlay will present the material. Hazards present themselves in many forms and we want your facility to be prepared for any event.

Register today at: <https://buff.ly/3XBEYfw>

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