



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LIFT Partners With Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KYFAME) – Northern Kentucky Chapter to Provide Educators with Advanced Manufacturing Externship Experience

Versailles, Kentucky – Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) and the Northern Kentucky Industry Council today announced a manufacturing-focused externship program for high school and community college teachers. Expected to launch in summer 2015, the Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Externship will provide business partners and teachers in the state with an opportunity to learn how technical and academic course content is used in real-world manufacturing settings.

“Educators remain critical facilitators to develop and cultivate connections between academic and technical skills,” said Larry Brown, executive director, LIFT.

“Completion of a manufacturing externship will significantly influence the teachers’ future instruction and their ability to add to students’ understanding of manufacturing and the vast career opportunities available in the region.”

Because lightweighting in the commercial and defense transportation manufacturing sectors is still new and emerging, many Kentucky teachers do not yet possess the expertise, knowledge or materials necessary to introduce students to career pathways related to lightweighting technologies. In order to develop teachers’ understanding of lightweight metals and new technologies, the Externship initiative will connect teams of teachers, consisting of both technical and academic instructors, with local manufacturing businesses to collaborate on how classroom learning is applied in the workplace, and how to apply the manufacturing experience back into the classroom.

“There is a growing disconnect between employer demand for certain knowledge and skills – largely driven by the infusion of new technologies in the manufacturing workplace -- and what is being taught in the classroom,” said Emily Stover DeRocco, education and workforce director, LIFT. “The goals of our Externship are to remove the negative stigma surrounding manufacturing employment and to

provide educators and students with the knowledge and expertise needed to meet current and future employer demand.”

That demand is expected to rise in the next 20 years as nearly 20 percent of workers in lightweight-related manufacturing occupations are 55 years or older and are nearing retirement.

“This is the first project of its kind in Northern Kentucky,” said Dr. Dianne Leveridge, PMP, Kentucky Community & Technical College System. “New relationships developing between area employers, schools and instructors through the Externship initiative help lay the foundation for future collaborations and partnerships here.”

The Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Externship project will be lead by the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. Partners include Bosch, Hahn Automation, Mubea Inc., Steinkamp Molding, Boone County Public Schools, Kenton County Public Schools, Grant County Public Schools.

For more information on the Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Externship program and other LIFT education and workforce development initiatives, please visit www.lift.technology or contact the LIFT director of education and workforce at ederocco@lift.technology.

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ABOUT LIFT

Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) is part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and serves as the nation’s essential bridge between basic research and final product commercialization for lightweight metals. The Institute’s world-class facilities and technology development capabilities provide the “right” solutions for the nation’s defense and commercial transportation sectors to promote American competitiveness, energy efficiency, defense readiness, and economic growth.
www.lift.technology



BUILDING 21st CENTURY MANUFACTURING TALENT

Teaching the Teachers: Advanced Manufacturing Externship Experience

*An Education & Workforce Development Initiative
for LIFT...Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow*



THE PROBLEM

Currently, many Kentucky teachers do not possess expertise and knowledge necessary to present students with career pathways related to lightweighting technologies. Industry leaders are concerned that students are not getting enough exposure to 21st century high-tech advanced manufacturing. Many students choose careers other than manufacturing often due to lack of knowledge about the career options. Students who are introduced to career pathways in high school, or earlier preferably, understand how their course work translates to success in the careers they choose after graduation. Instructors and teachers remain critical facilitators to develop and cultivate connections between academic and technical skills.

THE SOLUTION

LIFT will partner with the Kentucky Community & Technical College System and the Northern Kentucky Industry Council to establish a manufacturing-focused high school teacher/community college instructor externship experience for the summer of 2015. This program will emphasize employers who utilize or are transitioning to lightweight technologies and materials, and focus on both high school and community college instructors. With the expertise gained from the externship, these teachers can share their new knowledge with students to help encourage more students to pursue advanced manufacturing careers post-graduation.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The goal of the teacher/instructor externship experience is to connect classroom learning to authentic activities and encourage teachers to use that connection in their classroom instruction. Specifically, this project begins developing instructor understanding of emerging technologies such as those related to lightweighting and the opportunities and challenges these technologies pose for students.

The externship experience provides business partners and teams of teachers an opportunity to learn how technical and academic course content is used in a real-world manufacturing setting. Teams of teachers – importantly consisting of both technical and academic instructors – spend up to five days in partnership with an area manufacturing business learning about job and career opportunities and requirements, how classroom learning is applied in the workplace, and how to apply the manufacturing experience back into the classroom. Business partners assist teachers in understanding these realities and teachers then connect manufacturing practices to the content standards they are required to teach students in their respective courses.

PROJECT LEAD

Kentucky Community & Technical College System

PARTNERS

Bosch

Hahn Automation

Mubea Inc.

Steinkamp Molding

Boone County Public Schools

Kenton County Public Schools

Grant County Public Schools

Gateway Community & Technical College

PROJECT PHASES



GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

The Teacher and Instructor Externship project will take place in the northern Kentucky area. If successful, this model can be replicated in other communities in the LIFT region and nation-wide.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

13 to 15 high school teachers and community college instructors will complete a manufacturing externship experience that will significantly influence their future instruction and the students in their classes in terms of their understanding of manufacturing and the career opportunities therein. If expanded, the program will help many more teachers and instructors gain knowledge and experience to pass to students encouraging advanced manufacturing careers.

ALIGNMENT TO LIFT WORKFORCE & EDUCATION GOALS



Ensure students gain STEM foundational skills



Teaching the teachers



Attract more young people to manufacturing careers

For more information about the education & workforce development initiative visit www.lift.technology and contact LIFT Workforce & Education Director Emily DeRocco at ederocco@lift.technology