



NEWS RELEASE

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Ivy Tech Richmond awarded \$150,000 grant to provide manufacturing skills training

Richmond- Ivy Tech Community College Richmond is among 17 community colleges nationwide, the only one in Indiana, receiving \$150,000 to train area residents with skills needed for regional manufacturing jobs. The award is part of a \$4.19 million dollar three -year grant from the Walmart Foundation to support the Job Ready, Willing and Able (JRWA) initiative to provide middle-skills training and industry recognized credentials. The award was announced today by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Ivy Tech Richmond’s Corporate College skills gap training program, Manufacturing Matters (MM), will lead the program in Richmond. Kim Thurlow, Ivy Tech Richmond Corporate College Executive said, “This award allows the program to expand this training across our region. The \$50,000 a year grant over three years will enable Manufacturing Matters to offer enhanced training to meet the needs of employer partners through more hands-on delivery utilizing new equipment for manufacturing and maintenance skills attainment”.

Andy Bowne, Ivy Tech Richmond Region Chancellor, said, “This grant recognizes and supports the innovative partnership our local manufacturers, WorkOne, and Ivy Tech have created to train area residents for great employment opportunities in the region. These dollars will enable Manufacturing Matters expansion.”

The current Manufacturing Matters training is focused on the nationally recognized Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) credential endorsed by 11 area manufacturing partners, stakeholders and funders in the Ivy Tech Richmond region.

Bowne said, “It is an incredible honor to be recognized by AACC and Walmart through the Jobs Ready, Willing and Able grant. Public-private partnerships are changing the game in communities across our state and nation. This is one more shining example of great work.”

Applicants for the MM program are moved through the WorkOne system and must pass a skills assessment, WorkKeys, at a silver level, take part in a behavioral interview, commit to a training schedule and pass a drug screen. Those selected for the program receive a full scholarship worth \$2600 and participate in a 10 week, 172 hour course taught by Ivy Tech Corporate College and WorkOne.

“The training involves technical skills related to the CPT and 32 hours of employability skills to address teamwork, communication, problem solving and self-awareness. Those achieving the national CPT certification can receive six academic credits at Ivy Tech Community College in pursuit of a technical degree”, Thurlow said.

Manufacturing Matters and Ivy Tech Community College Richmond have received several recent honors. The Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County honored Ivy Tech Richmond on April 7 with its first Economic Development Partner Award for Manufacturing Matters and community service. The Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce honored Ivy Tech, the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County and WorkOne for Manufacturing Matters with its 2013 Partners in Education Award. Indiana 6th District Congressman Luke Messer noted Manufacturing Matters success and first graduating class a statement in the Congressional Record.

Thurlow said, “Because the model actively engages all stakeholders in the process, we have been able to create traction in stating what employers want, how to get it, and then having employers respond by valuing the training. Everyone owns the success of the program, and these additional funds will help us enhance the quality and capacity to continue to help create opportunities for our residents, and success for our employers.”

Other funders for the Manufacturing Matters program are Duke Energy, Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce, Wayne County Foundation and the Economic Growth Group.

About Ivy Tech Community College It is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system serving nearly 200,000 students annually. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its communities. In addition, its courses and programs transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

About the American Association of Community Colleges As the voice of the nation’s community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), delivers educational and economic opportunity for 13 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC’s nearly 1,200 member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all.

About the Center for Workforce and Economic Development

AACC’s Center for Workforce and Economic Development (AACC CWED) is the division within AACC that specifically focuses on student engagement, persistence and completion of students in industry-recognized credentialed programs. AACC CWED connects national and local employers to the colleges, ensures alignment with industry affiliates and networks that can support sector-specific initiatives and supports the success of every student to employment, further education and training and/or the necessary credential to improve their current job status. AACC CWED has an extensive history of working with industry partners, foundations, workforce and economic development partners and

colleges across the country with the goal of identifying best practices and making them common practices across the system of member colleges.

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