



Press Release

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Metro Suburban Region Receives \$2 Million to Assist Manufacturers

“Retooling and Retraining to Bridge Gap Between Employers and Job Seekers”

The Metro Suburban Region has received a \$2 million grant award to work with employers in developing workers for high demand manufacturing jobs.

As manufacturers increase production, expand operations, and replace an aging workforce, they are faced with the challenge of finding workers with the right skills. Currently there is a mismatch between the job seekers skills and the skills required for today’s manufacturing. The *Metro Suburban Accelerated Training for Illinois Manufacturing Program* (ATIM) is designed to address this skills gap – providing manufacturers with access to qualified job candidates for high demand jobs and potential employees’ access to good paying jobs.

Funding for the *Metro Suburban ATIM Program* is provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through a US Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Grant. The program is administered through a partnership that includes Workforce Investment Boards and respective local WIA Programs/IllinoisworkNet Centers, economic development organizations, industry associations, and manufacturers in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. Key elements of the program include

- responding directly to regional demand to for skilled workers to fill manufacturing vacancies for CNC Operators, Robotic Technicians, Welders, and Industrial Machinery Mechanics;
- providing industry-recognized skill training and education to approximately 170 individuals that is responsive to the needs of the region’s manufacturers and delivered in an accelerated timeframe; and
- testing new program delivery strategies to provide accelerated services, training and placement of qualifying individuals into available skilled manufacturing jobs as quickly as possible.

“The manufacturing industry in Kane County is **key** to the recovery of our local economy. The ATIM program provides resources needed to re-tool the skills of our workforce so they will be able to adequately provide for themselves and their families. It will also ensure our manufacturers have the workers they need to be competitive,” stated Chairman Chris Lauzen. Additionally, Chairman Lauzen encourages manufacturers involvement, and asks them to pledge their participation.

For more information, visit www.manufacturing4illinois.com or contact Renee Thompson with Kane County Illinois workNet at 630.208.1486 or reneethompson@kcdee.org.

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