

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Workforce Connect Manufacturing Sector Partnership Reaches Key Milestone

Employer-led leadership team selects priorities that will drive sector partnership forward

CLEVELAND, June 19, 2019 – The Greater Cleveland Partnership and MAGNET, as co-intermediaries of the Workforce Connect Manufacturing Sector Partnership, today announced the achievement of key milestones in developing employer-driven strategies to address workforce challenges in Cuyahoga County. Since kicking off in February, the Workforce Connect Manufacturing Sector Partnership has successfully recruited and convened an employer-led leadership team of 14 diverse manufacturing executives. In addition, over the course of multiple learning and planning sessions, the manufacturing leaders set a vision and selected three key areas where employers can significantly impact the talent gaps in Northeast Ohio, connecting more jobseekers with financially rewarding career pathways.

The vision developed for the manufacturing sector partnership is:

The manufacturing sector in Cuyahoga County is a
growth engine
for the people and economy of Northeast Ohio by being the
manufacturing education capital
of the U.S., and investing to unlock an
abundance of diverse, skilled people
to access, thrive in, and
love their careers
in manufacturing.

The three initial strategies that the manufacturing leaders have initially selected to move swiftly toward this vision are:

- Partner with education and training providers to fill key manufacturing training programs to 100% utilization
- Implement innovative on-ramps to career paths in manufacturing
 - o Cross-sector partnerships with hospitality, fast food, and/or distribution companies
 - o Connect with high-potential populations (for example immigrant, re-entry, disabled, and veteran)
- Consolidate a "Voice of Northeast Ohio Manufacturing" for advocacy of key policies to enable our current and potential workforce members

The Manufacturing Sector Partnership Leadership Team that set this excited direction consists of top executives from the following Northeast Ohio employers: Alloy Bellows & Precision Welding, Alloy



Engineering, E.C. Kitzel, Elsons International, Enprotech, Exact Tool & Die, Jergens, Lefco Worthington, Lincoln Electric, Nordson, Oatey, Swagelok, Talan Products and Zin Technologies.

“The manufacturing leaders that have stepped up to lead the sector partnership have exceeded all of our expectations,” stated Adam Snyder, Managing Director of the sector partnership for MAGNET. “It has been inspiring to see leaders from potentially-competitive businesses sit together, set their individual agendas aside, and engage in learning and collaboration in the spirit of driving impactful results for all manufacturing companies.”

The learning sessions, as well as operational expertise of Northeast Ohio’s workforce development ecosystem, have been supported by leadership from Manufacturing Works, Ohio Means Jobs, Towards Employment, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and Cuyahoga Community College. In engaging with the Manufacturing Leadership Team, these workforce experts provide key insight into the barriers preventing Northeast Ohio jobseekers from accessing careers in manufacturing.

“By engaging employers from the beginning to lead the process, the sector partnership has identified shared workforce priorities that are poised to be impactful talent solutions for manufacturers and that providers can rally around that better serve jobseekers,” said Shana Marbury, General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Education and Workforce at the Greater Cleveland Partnership.

The sector partnership leaders are actively looking to the business community to recruit leaders in two functions. One, specific to the cross-sector partnership, owners or CEOs of hospitality, fast food or food prep, or distribution businesses that are interested in developing truly mutually-beneficial partnerships with manufacturing companies that will drive recruitment, retention, and visibility in the community for both sides of the partnership. And two, specific to the manufacturing industry and those who serve manufacturers, there is an opportunity to get involved on the action teams that will be actively driving results within the three strategies. Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to go to www.manufacturingsuccess.org/sectorpartnership to learn more or get in contact.

The Workforce Connect Manufacturing Sector Partnership will host a convening at the end of the summer to further engage manufacturing leaders and members of Northeast Ohio’s workforce development ecosystem. For more information, please visit www.manufacturingsuccess.org/sectorpartnership.

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ABOUT MAGNET

MAGNET's mission is to help manufacturers grow and compete in Northeast Ohio, especially the 98% of startup to medium-sized manufacturers that drive our economy. MAGNET rolls up its sleeves to provide hands-on support ranging from new product design to operations and brings education and business together to create tomorrow's manufacturers. Visit

www.manufacturingsuccess.org for more information. MAGNET is funded and proudly part of the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership.





ABOUT THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP

With more than 11,000 members, the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is one of the largest metropolitan chambers of commerce in the nation. GCP is focused on driving the economic vitality of our region through building a strong and thriving climate for the broad business community, including small businesses, middle-market companies and large corporations.

ABOUT WORKFORCE CONNECT

Workforce Connect is an important building block in Cuyahoga County's overall workforce development ecosystem that will help support employers in finding the right skilled talent through business-led sector intermediaries in manufacturing, health care and IT over the next three years. Workforce Connect is the result of partnership of public and private leaders including the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County, Deaconess Foundation, Fund for our Economic Future, Greater Cleveland Partnership, The George Gund Foundation, Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board, Team NEO and United Way of Greater Cleveland.