

Action Plan

Based on the findings of this report, we recommend the following action items to the various key regional stakeholders.

State Government

- Establish a cabinet level Advanced Manufacturing Program Director for **each** state
- Give the cabinet level officers the authority and mandate to:
 - Disperse funds for competitive grants, entrepreneurs, collaborative ventures, and sponsorship of competitions in the field
 - Coordinate efforts through a regional council that will promote and share the best initiatives of each state
- Create a simple, “one stop shop” for advanced manufacturing grants
- Offer tax incentives and credits for companies that invest in companies in that have products or services in additive manufacturing, digital manufacturing and / or the Internet of Things
 - Continue to assess the field of advanced manufacturing on an bi-annual basis to ensure that incentives and credits are being offered for the true game changers
- Offer tax incentives and credits for any company that will provide community colleges with curriculum, materials and/or internship programs in advanced manufacturing
- Provide funds for use by organizations that will train workers for advanced manufacturing jobs
- Fund apprenticeship programs and provide collective training for apprentices

Higher Education Institutions

- Allow students to receive classroom credit for work completed outside the classroom
- Consider a manufacturing equivalent of AP credit for work in High School or apprenticeships that can give credit much in the way an internship would
- Create a certificate program that gives students recognition for the advanced manufacturing skills that have been attained
- Invite local manufacturers to the table for a dialogue/input on curriculum design for degrees related to advanced manufacturing
- Give credit for students who have taken certified “make it” courses in high school

Middle Schools and High Schools

- Appoint a district-level advanced manufacturing educational lead with the responsibility to:
 - Design and administer engineering and “make it” courses in schools

- Collaborate with local advanced manufacturers to give students first-hand experience
- Educate counselors on the changing industry and opportunities in advanced manufacturing
- Host annual (or more frequent) “make-it” days for local advanced manufacturers to expose students, parents, teachers, counselors to the industry

Advanced Manufacturing Companies

- Invest in regional apprenticeship programs with area high schools and higher education institutions to establish a viable workforce pipeline
- Fund competitions at high schools, middle schools and higher education institutions to promote the advanced manufacturing industry and generate interest among students
- Collaborate with educational institutions to develop a curriculum that reflects modern advanced manufacturing workforce needs
- Engage with local high schools and middle schools to promote the advanced manufacturing field to students at a young age by attending events such as career days and participating in engineering and “make it” courses
- Support and participate in collaborative start-up hubs through funding or through mentorship of the smaller companies working through the hub