Kansas Advanced Manufacturing Program (KAMP)

PARTNERSHIP LEAD ORGANIZATION – WORKFORCE ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS, INC (WASCK)

SERVICE AREA
KANSAS: Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Marion, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick, and Sumner; and serves the following cities: Arkansas City, Andover, El Dorado, Harper, Haysville, Hesston, Hutchinson, Kingman, Marion, McPherson, Newton, Wichita, Winfield, and Wellington.

GOALS
★ Serve 1,070 participants
★ 74% Complete training and attain a credential
★ 85% of those who earn a credential will gain unsubsidized employment

TARGETED POPULATIONS
★ Unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers
★ Low-income, veterans, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities

TARGETED INDUSTRY
Advanced Manufacturing

PARTNERS
★ Employers and Industry Representatives: Spirit AeroSystems; Avcon Industries; Cox Machine; Galaxy Technologies; JR Custom Metal Products; Union Tank Car Company
★ Workforce Boards: Workforce Alliance Board of South Central Kansas, Inc.; Workforce Board for Area IV of Kansas (6 counties); Kansas WorkforceOne Workforce Board for Area I (4 counties)
★ Economic Development Agency: Greater Wichita Partnership
★ Education and Training Providers: Hutchinson Community College; Wichita State University Campus of Applied Science and Technology (WSU Tech); Wichita State University
★ Others: Kansas Department of Commerce

ACHIEVEMENTS
★ Developed embedded WSU Tech training program with Spirit AeroSystems.
★ Average grant leverage amounts have been almost double the initial projections, due to strong employer partnerships and commitments to training.
★ Steady increase in participants due to Spirit AeroSystems and Cox Machine earning new project bids.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
★ Create and expand regional partnerships between employers, economic development, workforce development, community colleges, training programs, K-12 education systems, and community-based organizations committed to filling the skills gap in the industry.
★ Provide training funds for tuition free education in Advanced Manufacturing occupations to help create a pipeline and meet industry demand of highly-skilled workers.
★ Training will consist of earn and learn models, utilizing innovative designs for embedded classroom training, on-the-job training, and incumbent worker training.
KAMP SUCCESS STORIES

Michael, a 41 year-old African-American, married father with four children, had been unemployed since December 2016. A high school graduate with no post-secondary education, Michael had been searching for a career opportunity where he could learn, grow, further his education, and support his family. Michael realized he needed post-secondary training, but the cost of training was a barrier. With the mounting bills from being unemployed for over a year, pursuing further education was not feasible on his own. Spirit hired Michael as a Composite Assembly trainee and he was very excited for the opportunity to begin a career and earn an occupational certificate. During training, Michael utilized supportive services from the KAMP grant to avoid eviction and utility disconnection, which allowed him to focus on training until he received his first paycheck. Michael successfully completed the training program, earned a Structural Composite Assembly Certificate from WSU Tech on 2/1/2018, and was retained by Spirit as a Composite Assembly Mechanic, earning $18 per hour plus benefits. Since completing the program, Michael was able to purchase a home and improve his family's living conditions due to his steady income.

Savannah, a 31 year-old unemployed female with a high school diploma and limited work history, received her Machining Technology certificate in 2016. However, she was unable to find employment as she lacked aviation industry experience. Savannah was in need of on-the-job training to qualify for an entry level position to be able to utilize her machining knowledge and pursue a self-sufficient career. Through the KAMP grant, the Workforce Alliance connected Savannah to Cox Machine, where she was hired as a full-time Machinist Trainee, earning $13 per hour plus benefits, with an eight-week training plan funded by KAMP. She successfully completed her training and earned a Certificate of Completion. She was promoted to an ECL Machinist and received a raise to $14 per hour.

Troy is a 48 year old male with a high school diploma but no post-secondary education. He came to the Workforce Center unemployed due to his previous employer closing their facility. He had no experience in advanced manufacturing and needed assistance with finding another career opportunity. Through working with Workforce Center staff, Troy was offered a position as a Quality Assurance Inspector with Galaxy Technologies, earning $22 per hour, with a 12-week on-the-job training program. Troy started with Galaxy Technologies on 10/9/17, and he successfully completed his training on 1/30/18. He received a Certificate of Completion, and received a significant pay raise to $25.30 per hour with benefits.

Bradley is a 31 year-old single father with a high school diploma, but no post-secondary education. He previously worked full-time as a self-trained Mechanic at a family owned farm service company making $12 per hour, but the business permanently closed in early 2018. He was unemployed when he inquired about enrolling in a training program with the Workforce Alliance. Through KAMP, Bradley was connected to Union Tank Car where he was offered a full-time Railcar MRO Technician position earning $19.00 per hour plus benefits, however he was in need of on-the-job training as he had no experience in an advanced manufacturing facility. Union Tank Car created an eight week training plan for Bradley, which was funded by the Workforce Alliance through KAMP. Within two-weeks, however, he was promoted to a Quality Control Inspector due to his high quality of work and attention to detail. He successfully completed QC Inspector training and received a Certificate of Completion and received a significant raise to $28 per hour.