



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **LIFT and Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville Unveil Manufacturing Technology: A Career Pathway at Doss High School**

Louisville, KY - Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) and Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) today announced the launch of *Manufacturing Technology: High School Career Pathways* in Kentucky. Doss High School, in collaboration with manufacturers and government leaders, will offer a career pathways program providing students with on-the-job training experience, employability skills and technical training.

“Approximately one quarter of the more than 32,000 manufacturing jobs posted in Kentucky in 2015 were for skilled trade positions specializing in machining and industrial technology, so demand is great and growing,” said Larry Brown, executive director, LIFT. “The combination of employability training with technical training will help launch students into successful, in-demand careers.”

Expected to launch in August 2016, the innovative, Doss High School Manufacturing Technology career pathway program will provide students with:

- A four-course major in manufacturing
- Work-based learning experience with local employers
- Certifications including the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) and the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council - Certified Production Technician (MSSC-CPT)

“In an effort to develop more local talent, training and certification expansion are vitally needed in high schools,” said Emily DeRocco, education and workforce director, LIFT. “The advancement and training opportunities provided in this program will engage students in a work-and-learn environment that will provide significant manufacturing career opportunities.”

The Manufacturing Technology: High School Career Pathways initiative will be led by Jefferson County Public Schools and Doss High School and is part of a

regional plan that involves adjacent communities to develop talent for the jobs available in local manufacturing companies. Other partners in this effort include Amatrol, GE Appliances, Ford – Louisville Assembly Plant, local Ford UAW members, KentuckianaWorks, and the Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center.

“At JCPS our core mission is to prepare students to graduate college and career ready, and this partnership offers an exciting new opportunity to make that goal a reality,” said Dr. Donna Hargens, JCPS Superintendent. “Combining national certifications with local, work-based learning experience and regional partnerships will prepare tomorrow’s workforce for the high-skilled, high-tech lucrative manufacturing careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

For more information about the High School Machining Program in Kentucky and other LIFT education and workforce development initiatives, please visit [www.lift.technology](http://www.lift.technology) or contact LIFT Education & Workforce Director Emily DeRocco at [ederocco@lift.technology](mailto:ederocco@lift.technology).

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## **ABOUT LIFT**

*Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow (LIFT) is a public-private partnership that will develop and deploy advanced lightweight materials manufacturing technologies and programs to prepare the workforce. The LIFT region includes 5 states: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.*

*LIFT is operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) and was selected through a competitive process led by the U.S. Department of Defense under the Lightweight and Modern Metals Manufacturing Innovation (LM3I) solicitation issued by the U.S. Navy’s Office of Naval Research. LIFT is one of the founding institutes in the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, a federal initiative to create regional hubs to accelerate the development and adoption of cutting-edge manufacturing technologies.*

## **ABOUT JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (JCPS)**

*Educating more than 100,600 students a year, Jefferson County Public Schools is the largest school district in Kentucky and the 27th largest school system in the United States. The district boasts 18 magnet schools and 52 magnet programs at all levels, offers Advanced Placement classes at every school, and is home to 15 Five Star career-themed high schools, with the goal of creating community leaders who graduate college and career ready.*

# BUILDING 21st CENTURY MANUFACTURING TALENT

## High School Machining Program in Kentucky

An Education & Workforce Development Initiative  
for LIFT... Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow

### THE PROBLEM

During 2015, advanced manufacturing employers posted 32,718 open jobs in Kentucky. Approximately 24% of these postings were for skilled trade positions specializing in machining and industrial technology. Kentucky, and the U.S. as a whole, are experiencing declining numbers of qualified candidates for these jobs. In 2014, only 5,000 students in Kentucky completed certificate or degree programs related to machining and industrial technology and many of these students have not had the opportunity for on-the-job experience provided by an apprenticeship or internship program, making them less employable.

Opportunities for technical training for students are important. However, several equally important aspects to being prepared for work are often overlooked. By providing opportunities for on-the-job experiences with an emphasis on critical employability skills along with the technical training, individuals are truly prepared to be successful in the workplace. All of these skills and attributes - the technical and the non-technical - are necessary for employers like GE to stay competitive. Too few high school-level programs prepare students for the world of work in any field, much less manufacturing.

### THE SOLUTION

To address the need for quality programming at the high school-level in Greater Louisville, local high schools and manufacturers are collaborating to create dynamic new programs that will launch students into successful careers in high demand from local employers. With an investment from LIFT and generous support from GE, Ford's Louisville Assembly Plant, and local Ford UAW members, an innovative regional high school advanced manufacturing career pathway program will be developed and implemented. Upon completion, the students will have successfully navigated a four-course career major in manufacturing, participated in a work-based learning experience with a local employer, and earned the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) and Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification.

High school is the essential time to ensure that the future workforce can learn not only the technical skills needed for career success but also the employability skills that many of today's workers lack. Manufacturers are looking to local high school populations as a pipeline for production employees. The new program, which combines MSSC-CPT training with the NCRC and direct involvement by industry, will ensure that employers have a highly qualified pipeline of workers sooner. Partner companies are among those who will benefit from and utilize the lightweight technologies that are emerging from LIFT. These industry partners will therefore have an increased need for the workforce this program will help to prepare.



### PROJECT LEAD

Jefferson County Public Schools -  
Doss High School

### FROM INDUSTRY

- GE Appliances
- Ford - Louisville Assembly Plant
- Local Ford UAW Members
- Republic Conduit

### PARTNERS

- Jefferson County Public Schools - Doss High School
- Bullitt County Public Schools - Bullitt County Area Technology Center
- KentuckianaWorks - Kentucky Manufacturing Career Center
- Amatrol



GE APPLIANCES



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

MSSC-CPT is a certification already identified by 90+ local industries as representing the skills and knowledge needed by front-line production technicians. Combining the MSSC-CPT with NCRC and including a work-based learning experience in the program creates a formula for successful career preparation and the opportunity for lucrative manufacturing careers.

Direct involvement by industry ensures that students learn the specific technical and employability skills required by advanced manufacturing employers. With rapid advancement of technology, students in the program will have access to the most cutting-edge knowledge to prepare them for future manufacturing careers. Students will be immersed in programming and work-based opportunities and receive industry-recognized credentials to launch their careers right out of high school.

Upon completion of the program, students receive:

1. MSSC-CPT certification
2. NCRC certification
3. Completion of four transferable manufacturing courses to continue to post-secondary training
4. Immediate employment opportunities with industry partners

## GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

Greater Louisville Area: Jefferson and Bullitt Counties

## REPLICABLE INNOVATIONS

This model of NCRC programming integrated with industry-recognized technical training and work-based learning in a high school setting to prepare students for careers immediately upon high school completion is replicable across the U.S.

## ALIGNMENT TO LIFT STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

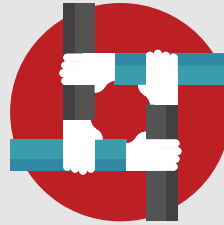


Attracting students and workers to educational pathways and careers in manufacturing



Deploying educational pathways from high school, through community colleges, to universities

*Beginning in August 2016, high school students involved in the program will have access to:*



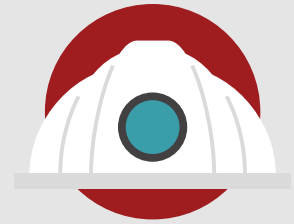
Hands on training



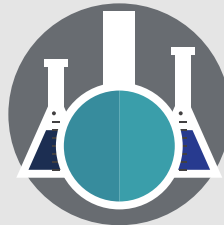
Work-based learning with employers



Online courses



Lightweight materials training

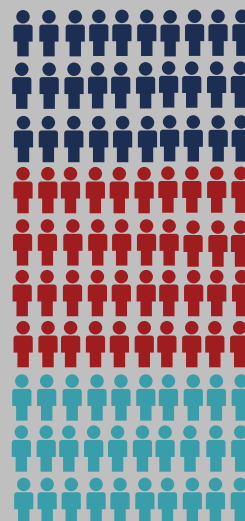


Laboratory facilities



NCRC employability skills training and assessments

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS



100 high school students enrolled in the program each year

40 students completing the program each year receiving either full-time employment or continuing to related post-secondary training

30 adult learners engaged in the program and connected to local employers