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New Partnership Announced Aimed at Strengthening Manufacturing in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – LIFT – Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow today announced a partnership with the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) to further increase awareness, innovation and education around advanced manufacturing and the manufacturing industry.

The partnership with the IMA, as well as with the manufacturing associations in Ohio and Kentucky, mark a new era for understanding the needs of the manufacturing industry in those three states, as well as the benefits for manufacturers of LIFT and the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes.

LIFT, one of the founding members of the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), is a Detroit-based, public-private partnership committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metals. Among its core strategies is a commitment to help ensure manufacturers have the talent supply chain they need to be successful in a global market.

The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) is the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that creates, protects and promotes quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana.

“The marriage between our organization and LIFT makes sense as we work to increase awareness of advanced manufacturing as a career choice and to build education pathways from middle and high school through college to employment opportunities in the state’s manufacturing economy,” said Brian Burton, President, Indiana Manufacturers Association.

“Our goal is to develop an educated and skilled workforce confident in using new lightweighting technologies and processes,” said Emily Stover DeRocco, director of workforce and education development at LIFT. “This partnership with one of the premier

manufacturing associations in the country will help us achieve that mission and fill the talent pipeline to keep manufacturing in the Hoosier state strong and growing.”

The three state associations, with over 325 years of experience in serving as the backbone of their states’ economies and advocating for positive manufacturing policies, are partnering with LIFT, one of the founding members of the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), to support each other in advancing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and other workforce initiatives across the region.

Since its founding in late-2014, LIFT has funded nearly 20 education and workforce development initiatives across its five-state region, made up of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, along with Michigan and Tennessee.

For information, visit www.lift.technology or contact LIFT Education & Workforce Director Emily DeRocco at ederocco@lift.technology.

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About LIFT

LIFT is a Detroit-based, public-private partnership committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training initiatives to better prepare the workforce today and in the future. LIFT is one of the founding institutes in the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), and is funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research. Visit www.lift.technology to learn more.

About the Indiana Manufacturers Association

Formed in 1901, the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) is the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and the only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. The IMA is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that creates, protects and promotes quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana. Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in America in wealth and jobs created, sustained and supported. More than 50 percent of all employment in Indiana has some connection to manufacturing

BUILDING 21st CENTURY MANUFACTURING TALENT

State Manufacturers Associations Collaboration Initiative: Teaming Up for Talent Development, Small and Medium Enterprise Outreach, Membership Services and Development

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



THE PROBLEM: Solving Big Issues Requires a Broader Team of Experts

As both demand and employment in lightweighting-related advanced manufacturing jobs grow across the five-state LIFT region, including Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, LIFT is continuing to develop initiatives to better address gaps between workforce supply and employer demand.

While LIFT's membership and state-based education and workforce development teams have provided insight into each state's business environment, available talent, and skills gaps, a broader team of experts, with deep roots in each state and covering a wide spectrum of manufacturing industries and capabilities, is needed to fully address the growing workforce needs in our region.

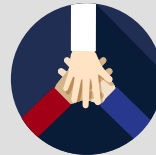
PARTNERS

- The Ohio Manufacturers Association (OMA)
- The Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
- The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA)

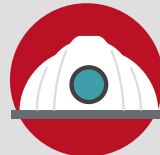
EXPECTED ROLES OF THE STATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

The partnerships with the SMAs in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana mark a new era for understanding the needs of the manufacturing industry in those three states, as well as the benefits for manufacturers of LIFT and the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes.

State Manufacturing Association partners and LIFT will work together in the following ways:



Share information from LIFT and other National Network of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes with manufacturers



Serve as a forum for manufacturers to provide LIFT leadership the perspective of manufacturing employers



Partner on targeted and effective Education and Workforce initiatives



Increase engagement of small and medium enterprises



Continually identify potential new LIFT partners in respective states

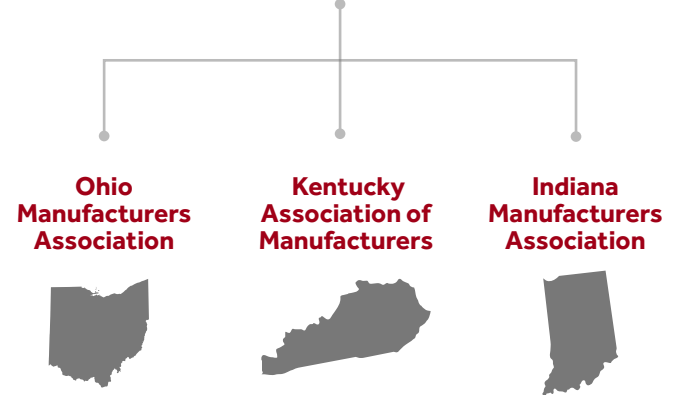
THE SOLUTION: Teaming Up With State Manufacturers Associations

The role of state manufacturers associations (SMAs) in talent development is expanding, and LIFT is partnering with the SMAs in three member states - Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana - to help them grow in that space and deepen LIFTs relationships. This new partnership brings to LIFT a legacy of manufacturing success with the over 325 combined years of experience from the Ohio Manufacturers Association, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, and the Indiana Manufacturers Association's advocacy for manufacturing. These organizations have a reach to thousands of manufacturers in their states and have served as the single, most representative voice of manufacturers to create manufacturing-friendly state policies in their state capitals and workforce programming in their communities.

SMAs are an important voice in the current LIFT state teams and will help serve as a connector between the institute and each state's key policymakers. With a strong legacy of helping manufacturers across the region, these SMAs have worked to strengthen the industry by supporting public policies, promoting awareness and providing education about the industry.

These new partnerships will allow members of both LIFT and the SMAs to leverage the assets and expertise of all partners - from manufacturing innovation projects, to education and workforce development programs, to support of pro-manufacturing policies in the state capitals.

325 years of experience



3,200 member companies
collaborating across three states

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Ohio Manufacturers Association's (OMA) membership of 1,400 companies reflects the type, size and distribution of manufacturing across Ohio in all manufacturing verticals, including transportation equipment, plastics, fabricated metal, machinery, and chemical. OMA facilitates Ohio manufacturers working together—and learning from one another—in key management disciplines of energy, environment, government affairs, human resources, safety & workers' compensation, tax & finance, workforce, and matters of manufacturing leadership.



Established in 1911, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers is Kentucky's most effective advocate for manufacturers. KAM's mission is to protect and create a manufacturing-friendly environment in Kentucky. In addition to advocating, KAM connects, educates and provides cost-saving programs and products to members. For more information, go to: www.KAM.us.com.



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ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Address the gaps in workforce competencies needed by manufacturers



Expand work and learn opportunities for students



Offer on-the-job training solutions for industry partners



Link and leverage resources on the ground today



Expand knowledge about and credibility of both LIFT and the National Network of Manufacturing Institutes broadly