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Heroes' Alliance, LIFT to Launch After School STEM Program for Detroit Students

Pilot program will include student teams working to design, build and test an electric-solar vehicle for national competition

DETROIT – Detroit high schools, Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School and Detroit Collegiate Preparatory High School, will participate in a pilot, after-school Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program focused on lightweighting and additive manufacturing technologies in vehicles. Lead by Heroes' Alliance and sponsored by LIFT – Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow, a Detroit-based applied research and development organization focused on lightweight metals, the program is scheduled to kick off December 18 2017.

Throughout the yearlong collaboration, up to two dozen students will work at a temporary cooperative learning center housed at Focus: HOPE alongside industry professionals to design, build, and test an electric-solar vehicle for a Summer 2018 national competition.

"Our goal is to build a community of empowered individuals who see STEM education as a path to success," said Anika Smith, director of programs, Heroes' Alliance. "This project with LIFT will help our Detroit students gain access to the world of advanced manufacturing and provide them with a vision of what is possible, not just in their own lives, but for society too."

The program will include a standardized curriculum with learning objectives defined in collaboration with LIFT, Michigan Technological University and General Motors (GM). In addition to validating the curriculum, the program will focus on establishing and expanding relationships between industry and university partners.

The program will also incorporate a two-fold mentorship program that includes peer mentors from Wayne State and industry mentors from GM. A platform for parental engagement will also be created to help students and parents explore pathways to advanced manufacturing, including college and career options.

“Connecting students directly to industry is critical to shining light on available pathways to successful careers in advanced manufacturing – in Detroit and across the nation today,” said Emily DeRocco, education and workforce director, LIFT. “Detroit is not only our home base, but also home to a tremendous history of manufacturing innovation, so we are thrilled to be working with Heroes’ Alliance to engage these students and their families in building the future of manufacturing.”

Following a successful pilot during the 2017-18 school year, future phases of the program will include building or renovating a permanent cooperative learning space capable of housing 10 high school teams from across southeast Michigan and formalized partnerships with industry and academia to create long-term success for the students.

LIFT, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) and one of the founding [Manufacturing USA](#) institutes, is a public-private partnership dedicated to developing and deploying advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training programs to better prepare the workforce today and in the future.

ABOUT LIFT

LIFT, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII), 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 of Manufacturing USA, and is funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research. Visit www.lift.technology or follow on Twitter [@NewsFromLIFT](https://twitter.com/NewsFromLIFT) to learn more.

ABOUT HEROES’ ALLIANCE

In response to the national agenda for increased STEM education, Heroes’ Alliance has created a platform to engage students, especially underrepresented minorities in Southeastern Michigan, in STEM education through after-school enrichment. In addition to focusing on learning outcomes that increase both knowledge and skills, Heroes’ Alliance is committed to creating a systematic means of supporting our students from secondary education through entry into the STEM workforce. For more information, visit <http://heroesalliance.net/>