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## **New Partnership in Ohio Geared Toward Strengthening Manufacturing**

**COLUMBUS** – LIFT – Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow today announced a partnership with The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) to further increase awareness, innovation and education around advanced manufacturing and the manufacturing industry.

The partnership with the OMA, as well as with the state manufacturers' associations in Indiana and Kentucky, marks 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 Ohio Manufacturers Association is made up of 1,400 companies from across all manufacturing verticals, working together to advance all areas of the industry in the state.

“As a national institute, LIFT has the support, reach and workforce education know-how to help us reach students across Ohio and encourage them to consider careers in advanced manufacturing,” said Eric Burkland, President, The Ohio 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. “By developing this partnership with The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, we will help each other achieve that mission and fill the talent pipeline to keep manufacturing in the Buckeye state strong and growing.”

The three state associations, with over 325 years of experience in 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](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**

*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](http://www.lift.technology) to learn more.*

### **About The Ohio Manufacturers' Association**

*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.*