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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMA Launches Statewide Workforce Training Directory

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Ohio manufacturers have a new resource to help identify training programs, strengthen partnerships with educators and build the skilled workforce needed to compete. The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) today launched its statewide Workforce Training Directory, featuring an inaugural group of 11 education and training institutions committed to supporting manufacturing workforce development.

OMA President Ryan Augsburger announced the launch during Bowling Green State University's Advanced Manufacturing Summit, where he moderated a panel discussion on leadership in manufacturing featuring executives from Whirlpool, GROB Systems and Owens Corning. The directory is a central component of OMA's Workforce Training Partner Program, which connects manufacturers with education providers while recognizing institutions working to align their programs with industry needs.

"Ohio manufacturers need skilled people, and Ohio has outstanding institutions preparing them," Augsburger said. "The challenge is making those connections easier and ensuring training reflects the skills employers actually need. This directory helps manufacturers find the right partners while recognizing schools making meaningful commitments to our industry's workforce."

The inaugural group represents career-technical centers, Ohio Technical Centers, community colleges, universities and specialized training providers from across the state. Participating institutions are recognized through a tiered partnership program designed to encourage stronger connections between education and manufacturing.

Through the program, OMA recognizes institutions demonstrating a commitment to manufacturing workforce development and stronger alignment with employer needs.

Gold Star Institutions earn recognition for deeper engagement in employer-aligned training, career awareness, talent pipeline development and work-based learning. Silver-Tier partners and Gold Star Institutions both receive visibility through the directory, helping manufacturers identify available programs and potential training partners. Bronze Tier participation provides opportunities for engagement through OMA events, publications and networking.

The inaugural class of OMA Workforce Training Partners includes 11 institutions from across Ohio.

Gold Star Institutions

- Apollo Career Center
- Bowling Green State University

- C-TEC
- Columbus State Community College
- Lorain County Community College
- Miami University
- The Ohio State University

Silver-Tier Partners

- Great Oaks Career Campuses
- Hobart Institute of Welding Technology
- Portage Lakes Career Center
- Tolles Career & Technical Center

"Manufacturers have told us they want a clearer picture of the training opportunities available across Ohio," said Jessica Borza, executive advisor, workforce and MEP for the OMA. "This initiative gives employers a place to start while encouraging education providers to demonstrate how their programs respond to real manufacturing needs. Our inaugural partners are helping establish a foundation we can continue building statewide."

The directory complements OMA's broader workforce development efforts, including the Ohio Manufacturing Competency Model, which establishes a common understanding of the knowledge and skills required for critical manufacturing occupations. Together, these initiatives support greater alignment between employer expectations, educational programs and career pathways.

As the directory expands, additional institutions will have opportunities to participate in the Workforce Training Partner Program, strengthen relationships with manufacturers and gain recognition for their contributions to Ohio's manufacturing talent pipeline.

Manufacturers can explore the new directory [here](#). Education and training providers interested in participating can learn more and express interest [here](#).

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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