



MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bynum, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Semiconductors
FROM: Jennifer Purcell, Director, Future Ready Oregon, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
DATE: March 6, 2023
RE: Future Ready Oregon semiconductor and advanced manufacturing investments

Co-Chair Bynum,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information about early Future Ready Oregon grant funding awards that are advancing education and training opportunities in the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing workforce.

Background

In 2022, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1545, providing a comprehensive \$200 million package of investments that work together to advance an equitable workforce system. Future Ready Oregon intentionally engages Oregon's historically underserved and underrepresented communities, and the investments advance education and training programs that lead to employment in key sectors of our economy – Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Technology.

Future Ready Oregon combines State General Fund (GF) and Federal ARPA funding to support people with the education, training, and resources they need to get into good-paying jobs, by:

- **Leveraging and expanding existing successful programs**, including local workforce development boards, postsecondary career pathways, credit for prior learning, registered apprenticeship, and youth programs; and
- **Investing in new and innovative approaches to workforce development**, such as workforce ready grants, workforce benefits navigators, and statewide industry consortia

Leveraging and expanding existing successful programs

The GF investments included in Future Ready Oregon were intended to advance innovation in the short-term, leveraging existing relationships and administrative infrastructure to facilitate immediate outcomes. To date, HECC has obligated all of its nearly \$50 million in GF grant opportunities, including:

- **Prosperity 10,000** – \$15 million to local workforce investment boards to expand their capacity to provide career coaching services, develop paid training opportunities, and provide scholarships, stipends, and wrap-around supports to address regionally-significant workforce needs.

Initiatives that specifically advance semiconductor and advanced manufacturing workforce education and training include:

- **Worksystems, Inc.** is partnering with Portland Community College and Intel to help deliver the *Quick Start* semiconductor training program in Washington County, advancing entry level career opportunities for women and people of color. Participants receive a \$1,000 training stipend and the program expects to train 150 participants through June 30, 2023.
- **Worksystems, Inc.** is partnering with the City of Hillsboro and the Hillsboro Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Partnership to create regular hiring events for area employers.

- Leveraging HECC Industry Engagement, WIOA, and HECC Strategic Innovation funding, **Worksystems, Inc.** is partnering with Mt. Hood Community College and the City of Gresham to address the training and hiring needs of Microchip in Multnomah County.
- **Lane Workforce Partnership** is supporting the workforce development needs of Stratacache, a company expanding operations in Oregon and new to Lane County.
- **Career Pathways** – \$14.9 million to community colleges to continue and expand education and training programs connected to student support services that enable individuals to secure a job or advance in a high-wage, high-demand industry and occupation. A full list and description of Career Pathways activities can be found [here](#).

Community colleges that are specifically investing in manufacturing curriculum, equipment, and technology include:

- Columbia Gorge Community College
- Klamath Community College
- Tillamook Bay Community College
- Umpqua Community College
- **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)** – \$10 million competitively awarded to 14 community colleges and 5 public universities to scale-up CPL systems and infrastructure that allows Oregonians to receive credit for the knowledge and skills gained through military training, significant work experience, and through formal and informal education and training from institutions of higher education in the United States and in other countries. These investments are not sector specific and expand CPL across all academic areas. A full list and description of Credit for Prior Learning activities can be found [here](#).
- **Workforce Ready Grants** – \$10 million competitively awarded in the first round of Future Ready Oregon Workforce Ready Grants to 42 projects focused on encouraging innovation and removing barriers to job training and education for historically underserved and marginalized populations. A complete list and description of the Workforce Ready Grants Round One capacity-building grant-funded projects can be found [here](#).

Awards in the first round of Workforce Ready Grants that specifically advance semiconductor and advanced manufacturing workforce education and training include:

- **Centro Cultural de Washington County** (\$300,000) – Centro's Workforce Capacity Building leverages the existing Prosperidad program and connections with both Washington County's Latino community and local employers, jurisdictions, and workforce boards to connect people with emerging opportunities in advanced manufacturing and healthcare.
- **City of Hillsboro** (\$300,000) – The Hillsboro Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Partnership (HAMWP) will increase access and expand accessible training opportunities that are pathways to direct employment, create culturally and linguistically relevant career mapping, and launch a manufacturing campaign in the advanced manufacturing sector. They will build consortium capacity through investments that support a strong workforce ecosystem, including an aligned talent pipeline, holistic access, engagement to support priority populations, and advocacy and awareness of the manufacturing sector.
- **Klamath Community College** (\$300,000) – The KCC Apprenticeship Center, an approximately \$11.5 million, 30,000-square-foot instructional facility for BOLI registered apprenticeships (in construction and related trades), manufacturing, technology, allied “hands on” skills education, and Emergency Response Operations (ERO) training, is now under construction. Building on and enhancing established relationships, this Workforce Ready project will focus predominantly on migrant and seasonal farmworker households/ students associated with KCC's Highschool Equivalency Program (HEP) which predominantly works with individuals in the Latino/Hispanic community.

- **Klamath Works** (\$225,300) – Klamath Works will provide supported work and actual work experience opportunities for individual in the Klamath Basin who are interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing. The grant will provide participants with work readiness services and paid supported work in its manufactured-related enterprises.
- **Mount Hood Community College** (\$300,000) – This project provides workforce training opportunities for jobseekers with introductory mechatronics classes and provides wraparound support for participants through student resource specialists, strengthening job attainment, retention, and promotion. Funding will be used to create a mobile teaching lab to be used onsite at manufacturer's sites for incumbent or existent worker training, with current industry experts to become part-time faculty and provide the training.
- **Portland Community College** (\$300,000) – This project is designed to support communities of color, women, low-income communities, formerly incarcerated individuals, and members of Oregon's nine federally-recognized Indian tribes by improving awareness of and expanding access to culturally-relevant, industry-aligned training that leads to high-demand, good paying jobs in manufacturing, with a particular focus on machine manufacturing technology. It will accomplish this by engaging community and industry partners in a comprehensive review of a student's journey, including initial engagement with PCC, career and college preparatory activities, technical training in MMT, and holistic student supports that can create and strengthen pathways to careers in machine manufacturing. This work will inform a future curriculum redesign that better meets the needs of priority populations as well as industry.

New and innovative approaches to workforce development

Federal ARPA funding must be obligated by the end of 2024, providing HECC more time to be intentional about investing in new and innovative programs and approaches to workforce and talent development. These funding opportunities will be available beginning in early 2023 on a phased or rolling basis, including:

- **Prosperity 10,000** – \$20 million to local workforce investment boards to expand their capacity to provide career coaching services, develop paid training opportunities, and provide scholarships, stipends, and wrap-around supports to address regionally-significant workforce needs.
- **Workforce Ready Grants** – \$85 million to encourage innovation and broaden the partners that comprise our workforce system. Grants will be available to community-based organizations and workforce service providers to:
 - Fund the creation and expansion of education and training programs in the key sectors of healthcare, manufacturing, and technology;
 - Expand the capacity of organizations to provide workforce development services; and
 - Provide direct benefits to individuals, including stipends for earn and learn experiences and funding to pay for education, training costs, job readiness supplies, and wraparound supports and services.

By removing barriers to education and employment and providing the wraparound supports and services individuals need to be successful, Future Ready Oregon investments are preparing a diverse workforce that will strengthen Oregon's economic competitiveness and ensure equitable prosperity for *all* Oregonians.