

Ohio TechNet

Sustainability Report

Core Members

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THIS IS OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORT

We understand the need to create programs that will outlast our grant funding. Ohio TechNet has established a close working relationship with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and discussion is underway regarding integrating Ohio TechNet into ODHE post-grant to help accelerate and scale the state's priorities for workforce development aligned to industry needs. Ohio TechNet has strategically collaborated with several Manufacturing USA initiatives including LIFT and NextFlex and these relationships have expanded the impact of Ohio TechNet. As the grant winds down, we're aware of the need to identify an organization (or organizations) who will continue to advance the progress launched via Ohio TechNet. One strategy is helping to shape a statewide employer engagement initiative which the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) is launching with the support of Ohio TechNet.

A key priority of the OMA initiative is expanded recognition of industry recognized credentials. While Ohio's TAACCCT participants may benefit from the opportunities created via expanded recognition of the credentials earned within Ohio TechNet programs, it's our hope that aligning PLA to industry recognized credentials will pave the way for additional transitioning adults to accelerate training and obtain jobs with family-supporting wages in Manufacturing.

Other sustainable initiatives include partnering with industry and state agencies in the creation of career pathways. Also, integration of the Completion by Design model highlights the need to maintain career navigators and we'd like to incorporate this into our sustainability strategy.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

- 1. Credit for Prior Learning for Manufacturing programs**
- 2. Collaborative infrastructure that facilitates rapid response to industry and adult job seeker needs**
- 3. Expanded Earn & Learn models such as TRAIN OH, registered apprenticeships, Right Skills Now, etc.**
- 4. Competency based curriculum**
- 5. Dedicated career navigators for adults considering/pursuing Manufacturing careers**

WHAT IS OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE?

We realize that true sustainability only comes when others outside the project itself recognize and value the programs and capacity provided via Ohio TechNet. Our work with the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Manufacturing USA Institutes, and participation in state level meetings are part of the groundwork to build an effective sustainability plan. As with most grants, funding to continue and expand programs launched is a challenge. Fortunately, the success of the Ohio TechNet consortium has caught the attention of state leaders and we hope to secure additional funding to continue solving the skills gap issues for Ohio manufacturers.

WHO SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS

Lorain County Community College (LCCC) is the lead institution for Ohio TechNet and our leadership embraces the programs launched within Ohio TechNet and prioritizes the need to continue these programs. LCCC leadership encourages their colleagues at partner institutions to join us in sustainability efforts.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE?

Connecting with TAACCCT colleagues and DOL experts enriches the experience for all of us as the grants wind down. Learning from the success of other consortiums will expand our success.

Further, the opportunity to engage with others via this national platform will provide valuable tips, suggestions and feedback as we develop a more formal sustainability plan. Also, we feel that we can be a resource for our TAACCCT colleagues.

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