



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMP Sponsors New Automation and Robotics Program at C-TEC Kick-off Set for June, Scholarships Available to 10 Enrollees

NEWARK, Ohio – The Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership (COMP) announced today its launch of a new 600-hour workforce training program in Automation and Robotics at Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County (C-TEC) Postsecondary Center.

In January 2021, COMP received one of the Industry Sector Partnership Accelerant Grants through the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation. The grants were awarded to organizations that support the workforce pipeline for industries such as health care, information technology, manufacturing, construction and transportation.

The new Automation and Robotics program was developed in partnership with Central Ohio manufacturers to supply a steady pipeline of automation technician workers for the region. Ten (10) enrollees will receive a full-ride scholarship, as the first class of students.

The program development and scholarship sponsorship were provided by COMP, who awarded C-TEC’s Postsecondary Center grant money to lead Central Ohio in developing an entry-level automation and robotics adult training program to meet local and regional industry training demands. COMP plans to cascade this program to other technical centers in the future.

COMP President, Shawn Hendrix said, “The importance and application of automation in manufacturing is going to continue to grow exponentially in the future as manufacturers are faced with the challenges of being globally price competitive while also supplying products on time to their markets with a shrinking workforce. There is a great misperception that automation replaces workers. The fact is that automation provides the opportunity for incumbent workers and others who have not yet entered into a manufacturing career to gain new skills and earn higher wages through training such as this new program at C-TEC, and eventually other Ohio Technical Centers in our region.”



The first class will start on June 1, 2022 and run until June 14, 2023. Class time is 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The scholarships will cover the complete cost of the class, including books, credentials, and supplies.

In just a year, trainees will learn the critical skills needed to work as an automation technician for area manufacturers. Through a combination of theory and hands-on lab instruction, trainees will master skills in the areas of:

- Lean Systems and Industrial Safety
- Electrical Control Systems
- Robotic Operations
- Advanced Robotics
- PLC Operations
- Advanced PLC's
- Industry 4.0

C-TEC's Postsecondary Center Director, Lauren Massie added "Our new Automation and Robotics program offers training in advanced technology and technical skills, preparing adult students for high-paying, in-demand jobs in modern manufacturing. We are very thankful for the support of our local industry partners and COMP for sponsoring and trusting us to build and develop this program for the county and the region. Their support, including scholarships to our first class of students, has been crucial."

More information about the new program, including the online scholarship application, can be found at:

<https://www.centralohiomanufacturingpartnership.org/robotics-and-automation-program/>

COMP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Industry Sector Partnership serving eleven counties in central Ohio; Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union. Its mission is "to create a connected system to source manufacturers with qualified talent." Industry Sector Partnerships are designed to develop workforce strategies specific to the various regions around the state, with the goal of driving collaboration between local businesses, workforce professionals, education and training providers, and community stakeholders. For more information: ambergibbs@manufacturingpartnership.org

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