

Automation Alley Aids Training for New Workers

A portion of \$5 million in training and employment funds is available to member employers of Automation Alley, Michigan's largest technology business association.

As the next phase of its innovative Technical Talent Development Program (TTDP), a unique Challenge Fund program has been set up by Automation Alley to provide funding for member companies seeking to hire and train full-time, highly skilled and permanent workers, with priority being given to those employers committed to hiring new employees.

A no-cost information session on the TTDP, including steps a company can take to access funds as an employer or training provider, is scheduled for 8:30-10:30 a.m. Oct. 30 at Automation Alley Headquarters in Troy.

All employers and training providers are invited, but pre-registration is required by contacting the Automation Alley Resource Center at 800-427-5100 or info@automationalley.com.

"Any company looking to hire the remarkable talent found in Southeast Michigan should take advantage of this program. The TTDP has gained recognition by federal review as a model for employer-led job creation and workforce development," said Automation Alley Executive Director Ken Rogers.

"And our Challenge Fund program is designed to put that model into practice and delivery, as we work to meet the needs of committed employers and job seekers."

The TTDP model transcends traditional workforce development programs by letting companies identify the specific candidates they want to hire through their own application processes.

Those candidates are admitted to training before starting in the positions for which they apply.

Traditional programs train workers but re-enter them into a large pool of other candidates with similarly touched-up resumes. The TTDP allows employers to lead the way by targeting for positions they know are needed in fast-growing industries.

The TTDP has been made possible through a grant that was awarded to Automation Alley by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration earlier this year.

Automation Alley applied for the grant in partnership with Oakland Community College (OCC) and the Oakland County Michigan Works! Workforce Development Division, with additional support provided by Sen. Stabenow, D-Mich., Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and the Michigan delegation.

Member employers and training providers will use the funding provided by Automation Alley through its Challenge Fund to deliver flexible and employer-driven pre-hire training to U.S. workers targeted to specific high-skill or specialty occupations in fast-growing industries.

Automation Alley member companies receiving a portion of the Challenge Fund will be selected as a direct result of their immediate need for new local hires, coupled with their willingness to hire unemployed candidates, if properly trained.

Training funds will be allocated for local unemployed candidates through collaboration between employer partners and Michigan Works! agencies.

Employee training will include industry-recognized vendor certifications. Training will be provided by local corporate training companies, workforce development organizations and educational institutions.

The Challenge Fund was created to ensure that small and medium-sized technology companies are able to benefit by expanding their staffs with local U.S. workers. Training of incumbent employees is also allowed through the Challenge Fund.

The TTDP Information Session check-in, a 9-10 a.m. program, agenda includes 8:30-9 a.m. and 10-10:30 a.m. networking.

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