

## **Welding Training for North Country Advanced Manufacturing Cluster**

### **Project Summary:**

As Clinton County continues to see an increase in the number of available manufacturing jobs, our regional population growth has not kept pace with the number of available jobs and the COVID-19 pandemic has further stressed the situation. We have heard directly from many of our manufacturers that they are struggling with finding qualified welders and anticipate that they will have a demand of upward of 70 welders over the next 2 years. Our project will seek to address this need by creating and running a comprehensive welding training program, to be created in concert with private industry and housed at Clinton Community College's Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (IAM), which would support our regional workforce by preparing them for new careers or growth in our advanced manufacturing cluster.

To accurately reflect the needs of the manufacturers, and to ensure that those who complete this training will have a competitive edge to obtain a job, this training program would be created in cooperation and concert with private industry including Alstom, a local manufacturer of railcars for customers such as the MTA, amongst others.

The training would be supported by Lincoln Electric, a world leader in welding equipment and training. It would consist of both classroom style and hands-on practical training and be 120 hours of instruction per trainee. It would cover the following skills/topics: welding process theory, safety fundamentals, welding symbol/blueprint reading, preventative maintenance, MIG welding (on stainless steel and carbon steel), TIG welding, and Flux Core welding. Upon completion of this training, trainees would receive a certificate of completion from Clinton Community College and Lincoln Electric, as well as other industry recognized credentials. Trainees would have the skills necessary to start a career in welding at nearly any North Country manufacturer.

The training program would be noncredit bearing, allowing it to be put together quickly and adjusted to adapt the needs of our regional manufacturers. If our project is funded, NBRC funding would be used to offset the cost of this welding training for incumbent workers, high school/vocational school graduates, and unemployed/underemployed individuals in our community. Trainees would not need to have any previous manufacturing experience to take the course.

**Total Project Cost: \$306,533.67**

**Total Matching Funds Available: \$20,933.67**

**Total NBRC Funding Requested: \$285,600**

### **Outputs, Outcomes, and Measures of Success**

- Development of new, noncredit bearing, welding training program for our advanced manufacturing cluster that can be quickly adjusted to meet the changing needs of local manufacturers.
- 50 total individuals trained or upskilled as welders. These trainees will consist of incumbent workers, students, and unemployed/underemployed individuals.
- Job creation, retention, and promotions as a result of proposed project:
  - 30 new jobs in the manufacturing cluster over the next three-years
  - 50 promotions in the manufacturing cluster over the next three-years
  - 100 jobs retained in the manufacturing cluster over the next-three years