



Illinois Advanced Apprenticeship Consortium

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Illinois Consortium Awarded \$3.9 Million from the U.S. Department of Labor to Establish and Grow Illinois Apprenticeship Program over Next Five Years *Private-Public Coalition to Grow Pipeline of Highly Skilled IT and Manufacturing Technicians*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Advanced Apprenticeship Consortium (IAAC), on behalf of the Illinois Consortium for Advanced Technology Training (ICATT) and the Central Illinois Center of Excellence for Secure Software (CICISS), has been awarded \$3.9 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to fund the creation of 600 apprenticeships over the next five years in Illinois. These 600 apprentices will attend college via an employer-sponsored program and will be compensated for their work throughout their apprenticeships. The Illinois Manufacturers Association Education Foundation, who will administer the grant, leads IAAC.

Working with employers across the state, IAAC will further emerging Illinois apprenticeship efforts built on world-class standards first created in Europe. This unique employer driven program that connects students with employers through an apprenticeship to ensure classroom theory learning and practical workforce applications provide the best possible outcomes for success. In total, the IAAC project will serve more than 7,000 individuals through apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and career pathway programs in Illinois.

“IAAC is a great example of a private-public partnership that will ultimately grow a qualified pipeline for workers within two important sectors of our state’s economy,” **said Greg Baise, president and CEO, Illinois Manufacturers’ Association.** “The collaboration with ICATT and CICISS, two incredible, forwarding thinking partners, has established pilot programs that are already underway for the 2015 school year. We hope to continue broadening participants and working with our partner institutions to increase success across the board for students pursuing opportunities in both manufacturing and information technology.”

The IMA Education Foundation is facilitating the IAAC program in collaboration with the ICATT and CICISS whose key model programs were developed with support from the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest (GACC Midwest). The ICATT is an apprenticeship program initially focused on Industrial Maintenance Technicians that was launched by GACC Midwest in August 2015 with manufacturing employers in the northwest Chicago suburbs and Harper College. The CICISS is an apprenticeship program for Secure Software Developers that is also being launched this fall by Central Illinois employers in partnership with Illinois Central College, using a new Associate of Applied Science in Secure Software Development that is aligned with curriculum from Carnegie Mellon University.

“CICISS began the project with a goal to help solve the insecure software crisis, unsustainable college debt crisis, and unemployed/underemployed young adult crisis. The solution that was spear-headed is going to do just that – initially in Central Illinois—but scalable nationally,” **said Janet Sanders, CICISS representative on IAAC steering committee.** “We appreciate IMA Education Foundation’s leadership to include CICISS in the AAI grant proposal which makes it possible to scale CICISS statewide and make Illinois a key player in supporting the President’s goal of doubling the number of apprenticeships by 2018.”

“Based on feedback from the industry, GACC Midwest conceptualized, developed, and implemented ICATT to alleviate existing shortcomings and meet companies’ needs,” **said Mark Tomkins, president and CEO of GACC Midwest and ICATT representative on IAAC steering committee.** “Acting as a catalyst, GACC Midwest advises and facilitates the program together with educational partner Harper College in Palatine and eight small and medium sized manufacturing companies. The company-driven project follows a sustainable and systemic approach to form a well-trained workforce for companies that might be smaller but are often leaders in their industries. All graduates are trained to the German ‘gold standard’ and receive certification, ultimately creating a future generation of highly skilled workers.”

There are two pilot programs under IAAC up and running for this fall – one at Harper College in Palatine and another through Illinois Central College in East Peoria.

Key practical aspects of the apprenticeship program include:

All IAAC Apprenticeship Programs must:

1. Target mid-to high-skill occupations that are high-value to the participating companies and the State's economy, and for which there is a significant skills and training gap.
2. Be employer-driven; with the primary relationship existing between the apprentice and the company. IAAC apprenticeships focus on creating new capabilities in the company, and are not simply a hiring tool.
3. Use industry-defined competencies, standardized curriculum framework and company training materials, and a common industry certification to support the statewide scaling of programs for a particular occupation.
4. Include a comprehensive examination requiring apprentices to demonstrate the credential standard through the application of industry-recognized skills and competencies.
5. Offer apprentices an economically feasible program structure leading to an Associate's degree and industry certifications with minimal to no education debt and the opportunity to "earn while they learn".
6. Involve close cooperation between the college and employer to alternate classroom training and on-the-job learning at short intervals and in a "woven" manner that addresses complimentary competencies. On-the-job learning constitutes at least 50% of the training period.
7. Align with both (i) regional, sector-based career pathway systems that provide on-ramps to IAAC apprenticeships, particularly for under-represented populations, and (ii) bachelor's degree programs for apprenticeship completers.

An abstract of the IMA Education Foundation Grant Award description from the U.S. Department of Labor can be found here: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/20150909/III%20-%20IL%20Manufacturers%20Assoc.pdf>

About the German American Chamber of Commerce:

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to promote the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the US, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association and a professional consultancy, and focuses on a variety of industries as well as the development of skilled workforce programs. GACC Midwest's territory covers 14 U.S. states: the 13 states of the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and Colorado. The GACCs are connected to the Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs) in Germany. The umbrella organization of the IHKs is the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), which also coordinates and supports the GACCs. For more information please visit www.gaccmidwest.org.

About Harper College

Harper College enriches its diverse communities by providing quality, affordable, and accessible education. Established by referendum in 1965, Harper College is now one of the nation's premier community colleges and one of the largest, serving more than 40,000 students annually in Chicago's northwest suburbs. Harper offers associate degree and certification programs, advanced career programs, workforce training, professional development, continuing education classes, accelerated degree options for adults and developmental education programs. Harper College, in collaboration with its partners, inspires the transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society. For more information, visit: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/>.

About the Illinois Manufacturers' Association Education Foundation:

The mission of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association Education Foundation is to be the premier influencer of education programs to attract and develop Illinois' future manufacturing workforce. We do this by providing both financial support to school districts, community colleges, vocational schools and Illinois' four-year institutions and by encouraging member companies of the IMA to provide internships at their manufacturing facilities for students and opportunities for educators to observe and discuss the needs of manufacturers in their area. For more information, visit <http://www.ima-net.org/ima-education-foundation>.