

## 2014 Impact Statements



# ALBER ENTERPRISE CENTER

## HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- A startling trend has developed among today's youth. They are overlooking the unlimited opportunities that the increasingly technology-driven manufacturing industry has to offer and are not preparing for booming careers in robotics. Upon noticing this, **the Alber Enterprise team began focusing on improving career awareness in the manufacturing field** for youth as well as for unemployed and underemployed adults. Subsequently, the team applied for an Ohio State University Outreach and Engagement Grant.

**The Alber Enterprise Center was awarded one of the OSU-CARES Seed Grants for 2014–2015** for "Planning Foundation for Development of Skilled Workforce in Advanced Manufacturing." This project will lay a solid foundation for a long-term, sustainable effort to meet the current and future needs of skilled workers in advanced manufacturing by canvassing employers to pinpoint skill requirements and by sharing the results with educational institutions. The focus during the one-year grant period will be advanced manufacturing employers in the four-county region of Crawford, Hardin, Marion and Wyandot.

Dave Claborn, director of Development and Community Relations at The Ohio State University at Marion, states, "My hope then, and still is, that **we can begin to better define the career pathways for students interested in engineering and technical careers.** I believe we have excellent facilities and institutions here in the Marion area; however, I believe students who think they might have an interest in such a career may not have a clear understanding of the pathways into those careers."

### The Planning Foundation for Development of Skilled Workforce in Advanced Manufacturing project will:

- **connect businesses with qualified workers** by identifying skills and training in advanced manufacturing.
- **partner with economic development** to enhance business retention/expansion efforts.
- **link students with employers** for experiential learning.
- **align education with employer needs/strategies** by developing an alliance in priority industries in each of the four counties.
- **share results of skills analyses** with educational partners.
- **initiate development of career pathways** in robotics.

### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- It takes robust leadership skills and an effective team to become one of the fastest growing companies in Stow, Ohio, and a global leader in the synthetic rubber equipment industry. Anderson International Corporation didn't see this feat as a challenge but as a goal to be better. **In less than nine months during 2013–2014 and with the support and consultation of the Alber Enterprise Center, Anderson received the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management with Design Certification.** The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is the world's leader in international standards for quality products, goods, services and manufacturing practices.



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Once Anderson achieved their ISO designation, **their efforts to expand their facilities multiplied.** They have added 24,000 square feet to their current 10-acre and former 78,200-square-foot site. They have also reorganized processes to support their growth. Currently, their customer base spans 90 countries with partnerships in China, India, the Middle East and Russia.

According to Anderson President Lenny Trocana, **export sales of equipment for synthetic rubber producers have gone from 70 percent of total shipments five years ago to 84 percent.** “I think that trend is going to continue,” said Trocana.

Trocana said the **expansion of the modern building and automated processes helps in obtaining necessary staff, especially people experienced in CNC-based machinery.** Some of their manually operated equipment requires skilled machinists, which are difficult to find. Anderson Vice President and General Manager Paul Kohntopp said, “I know how important automation is ... it is the glue that holds everything together.” Some **other recent investments are sophisticated 3D software and an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system,** which is a business management software. The Alber Enterprise Center is scheduled to provide employee training on the quality management system.

- Projects serving 19 employers throughout Ohio enabled those organizations to **build internal strengths and remove obstacles to success** with specialized resources and customized educational programming coordinated by the Alber Enterprise Center. Topics included the following:
  - Shop skills training for entry-level new hires
  - Job mastery training and certification
  - Employee engagement training
  - Environmental compliance auditing and training
  - Safety compliance auditing and training
  - Skills assessments
  - Problem-solving training
  - Leadership development
  - Professional development
  - Lean Six Sigma certification