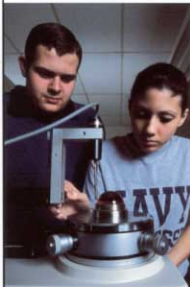




The premise: This region needs a manufacturing workforce skilled in math, science, engineering, and technology – and knowledgeable about business.

The promise: We're preparing that workforce.



The good news is that Southwestern Pennsylvania has a robust manufacturing base of 3,500 companies and a workforce of 166,000 men and women.

15% of the region's total workforce is in manufacturing – but that 15% accounts for 40% of the region's economic output.

The challenge is that many of those companies can't find enough qualified people to hire.

Today's manufacturing jobs demand skills and knowledge far beyond those required even just a few years ago.

But manufacturers are finding newly hired employees deficient in areas including business and communication skills, engineering fundamentals, problem-solving, international perspective, manufacturing knowledge, materials, project management, quality focus, and ability to work in teams.

Unchecked, that trend could lead to a regional economic downturn – and potentially even economic disaster. But now things are changing – dramatically – for the better.

A new program called PRIME (Partnership for Regional Innovation in Manufacturing Education) brings together five local colleges, multiple industry partners, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) to completely transform manufacturing education in the nine-county region.

In PRIME, the five local colleges are launching new programs to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and experience they need to succeed in today's sophisticated manufacturing environments. Industry partners help shape the curricula, provide students with on-the-job learning opportunities and jobs after graduation, offer general advice, and provide a degree of financial support. Initial funding for PRIME is provided by the Education Foundation of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the Heinz Endowments, the Alcoa Foundation, the National Science Foundation and the USX Foundation.

PRIME's five colleges have developed new, innovative, industry-driven programs – the first such programs in Pennsylvania – to produce highly qualified graduates who possess the full range of education, skills, and experience needed by manufacturers.

Robert Morris University
B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering

Penn State New Kensington
*Industry-focused certificate programs
A.S. in Manufacturing Engineering
Technology (proposed)
B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering
Technology (proposed)*

Community College of Allegheny County (South Campus)
*A.S. in Manufacturing Technology
3-year bridge program to the
Robert Morris program*

Butler County Community College
A.S. in Manufacturing Technology

Westmoreland County Community College
A.S. in Manufacturing Technology



Percentage of Unskilled Jobs
(High School Education or Less)

