Act 1131 of 2015
Regional Workforce Implementation Grant

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
DUE JUNE 1, 2016

To:	Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Requesting Institution:	National Park College
Title of Project:	Innovative Technologies Center
Project Partners:	1. West Central AR Planning & Development District/West Central AR Workforce Development Board 2. Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce 3. Arkansas Career Training Institute 4. Hot Springs School District 5. University of Arkansas at Little Rock 6. AirTech Supply, Inc. 7. CMT, Inc. 8. Berry Plastics 9. Phillips Corporation 10.
Requested Budget:	$922,020.00
Date Submitted:	6/1/2016
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Authorized Signatures for Institution

National Park College

_____   _____
Lead Institution   Authorized Official

Act 1131 of 2015
Regional Workforce Implementation Grant Application

*Please complete each section of this application and submit to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by **June 1, 2016**. Applications should be emailed to ADHE.Workforce.Grant@adhe.edu. Please note that only projects that were awarded a planning grant are eligible to apply for an implementation grant.*

SECTION 1 – PROGRAM NEED   20 Points

Proposals will include a thorough description of the labor needs, as determined by the Local Workforce Development Board, and specifically identify the skills gap employers face in the selected region and will continue to face in the future. Entities seeking grant funds must outline the proposed program and/or equipment needed and how creation of the program and/or acquisition of equipment will address those labor needs.

Essential Components:

- Regional data demonstrating the need for action - provide empirical data that illustrates needs of the local workforce, with a particular emphasis on anticipated or future needs.

- Clear linkages between grant activities and local needs- clearly illustrate how the proposed grant project is directly linked to addressing the workforce needs and deficits of the region. Successful applications will provide a thorough description of the region's high-demand and high-skill industrial occupations, and identify how the proposed activity will address job candidate deficits in those areas. **Applicants must also submit letters of support from at least two area employers for the proposal, citing need and outlining benefits for local industry.**

- Alignment with Arkansas economic and workforce goals- describe how the proposed project will increase overall higher education attainment in the region and provide clear linkages between a postsecondary credential and the needs of employers.

Keep the following rubric in mind when completing this section:

	Exemplary	Superior	Adequate	Needs Improvement
Program Need (20 Pts)	Significantly addresses a top 3 workforce need in the region. (18–20 Pts)	Addresses in a more limited way a top 3 workforce need in the region. (15–17 Pts)	Addresses in a limited way a less critical workforce need in the region. (11-14 Pts)	Identified labor need is too narrow or not in a critical area. (0–10 Pts)

Please enter your answer in the box provided below. Feel free to include any necessary charts, graphs or tables.

Overview

National Park College (NPC) launched a strategic initiative in 2015 to establish an Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence. NPC President, Dr. John Hogan, identified this initiative as a central economic development strategy for the College's service area and for the West Central Arkansas region. The Innovative Technologies Center (ITC) will align workforce development and academic programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of employers while encouraging growth in the manufacturing industry sector. The Center will also create opportunities for K-12 students and the community to engage with NPC and industry partners in an innovative, collaborative environment. Additionally, new and enhanced academic programming will provide multiple pathways for students to move from K-12 to college to work.

Section 1 establishes a strong argument for Program Need. This section includes a quick summary of the grant proposal, regional data demonstrating the need for the proposed programs of study, and information showing clear linkages between grant activities and local/regional workforce needs. Finally, this section will provide an overview of activities completed during the Planning Grant that reinforced the argument that an Innovative Technologies Center is needed in the region and supported strongly by educators, business, and the community.

Grant Summary

This Regional Workforce Training Implementation Grant Proposal will:
- Provide detailed information on the need for highly-skilled manufacturing and knowledge workers in the West Central Arkansas Region
- Outline a comprehensive program plan and timeline to implement the proposed initiatives
- Describe the collaborative partnerships that exist throughout the region and identify others that will be established under this grant
- Recommend a comprehensive budget proposal that provides National Park College the funding needed to implement the initiatives outlined in the grant proposal
- Establish a sustainable business model that will allow National Park College to successfully operate the Innovative Technologies Center after the grant period ends

Grant Objectives – The Big Picture
- Align workforce development and academic programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of local and regional employers
- Prepare a workforce with the skills to be competitive in the 21st century workplace

Regional Workforce Grant Focus
- Program Areas
    - Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing (3-D Printing and CNC Machining)
    - Sensors and Instrumentation
    - Computer Aided Design (CAD)/Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM)
    - Automation (Programmable Controllers and Robotics)

- Academic
  - Expand credit programs in Aerospace and Industrial Technology
  - Provide new courses in CAD, CAM, Programmable Controllers, Robotics, & Instrumentation
  - Support the Mobile Applications Program and other Certificates of Proficiency through the National Park Technology Center
  - Grow partnerships and transfer opportunities with universities in related subject areas
  - Provide expanded maker space and experiential opportunities for K-12
- Workforce
  - Expand non-credit manufacturing and aerospace course offerings
  - Incubate new non-credit programs related to innovative technologies
  - Develop short courses related to innovative technologies for students who want to gain skills in specific areas
  - Create customized training solutions for business and industry partners
- Community
  - Expand partnership with area Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development
  - Provide maker space for community use and expand technical short course offerings
 - Offer expanded camps for youth (Manufacturing Camp, STEM Camp)

Employment Needs Data

West Central Arkansas Region

National Park College utilized data provided by the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District and from the Hot Springs Metro Partnership to identify the greatest need for workers in high-skill, high-wage areas. The one industry that emerged in both data sets was the advanced manufacturing industry.

The West Central Region is ranked fourth in Projected Employment Growth by LWDA (see graphic below). The Region has a unique mix of manufacturing companies and there is significant demand for a highly trained workforce. Companies require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. These companies need basic and intermediate training for entry level workers and advanced training for incumbent workers. The Innovative Technologies Center will support the core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region and provide essential training solutions that meet the needs of the local workforce as defined by the West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board.

**Projected Employment Growth by LWDA (2012-2022)**
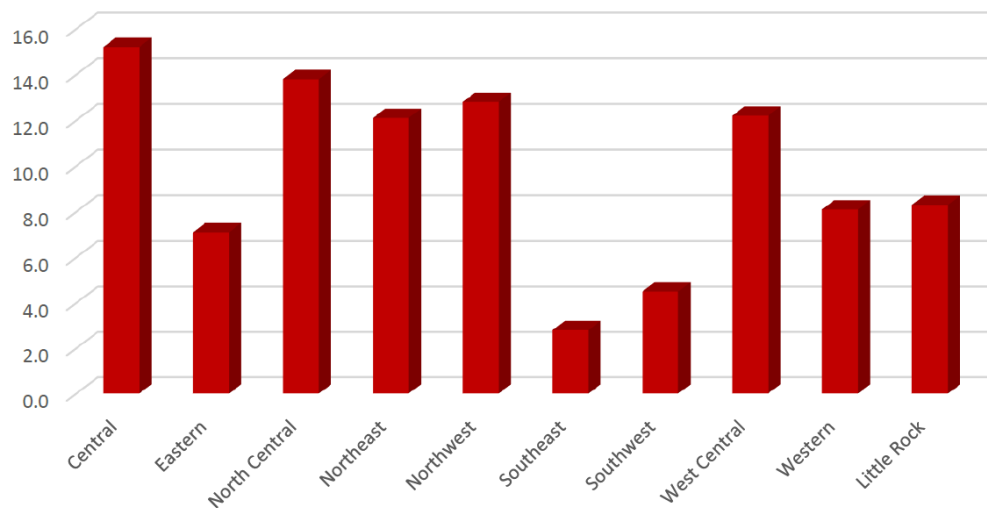
Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

According to data provided by the LWDA, manufacturing is one of the top three industry training needs in the West Central LWDA. In Garland County, over 10% of the regions private labor force is employed by manufacturing operations. The overall increased need for employees in the manufacturing labor force is over 6.7%, with some areas of manufacturing projecting a 14% growth by 2022. Many of these manufacturing jobs require highly skilled operators with significant training and expertise in highly technical areas such as Computer Numerical Controls and Instrumentation.

Garland County/Greater Hot Springs Region

The Hot Springs Metro Partnership recently completed the 2016 Garland County Workforce Survey. Over 25% of the survey respondents were from the manufacturing industry sector. Over 80% of surveyed organizations expressed difficulty filling positions in the past 12 months. The skill deficiencies most commonly listed included lack of relevant technical and occupational skills and lack of relevant work experience.

As shown in the example below, manufacturing and information technology are two of the top occupational fields that organizations will be recruiting in the next five to ten years. Specific examples included CNC programmers, CNC machinists, multi-skilled workers, general production, inspectors, and engineers. Many of these were later cited in the survey as significant deficiencies. More than 34% of the companies surveyed by the Hot Springs Metro Partnership also stated that they anticipate employment to increase over the next six to twelve months.

Source: Hot Springs Metro Partnership
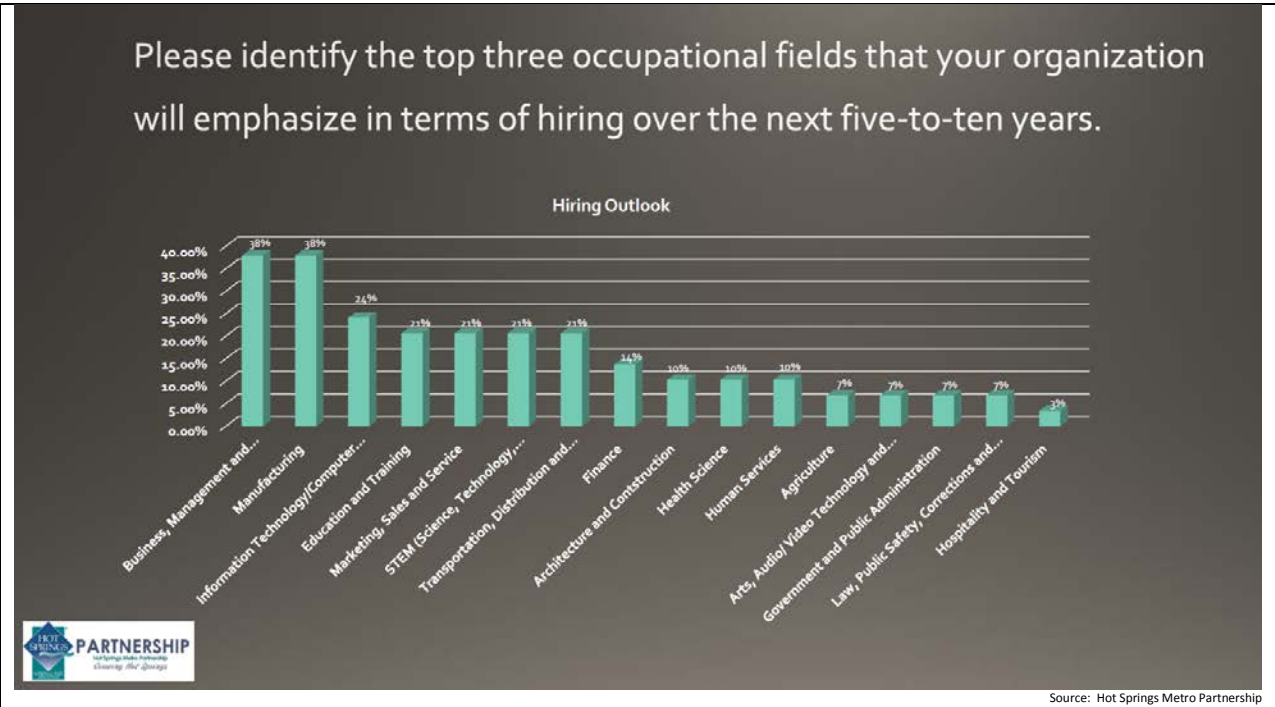
National Park College Service Area

National Park College recently administered a survey to area business and industry to gain additional information regarding the demand for workers in each of these broad advanced technology areas. The two graphs provided below emphasize the need for workers with the skills sets outlined in the Innovative Technologies Center proposal. Access to workers with these abilities is critical to the long term economic success of the region. The complete survey data is provided in Appendix A.
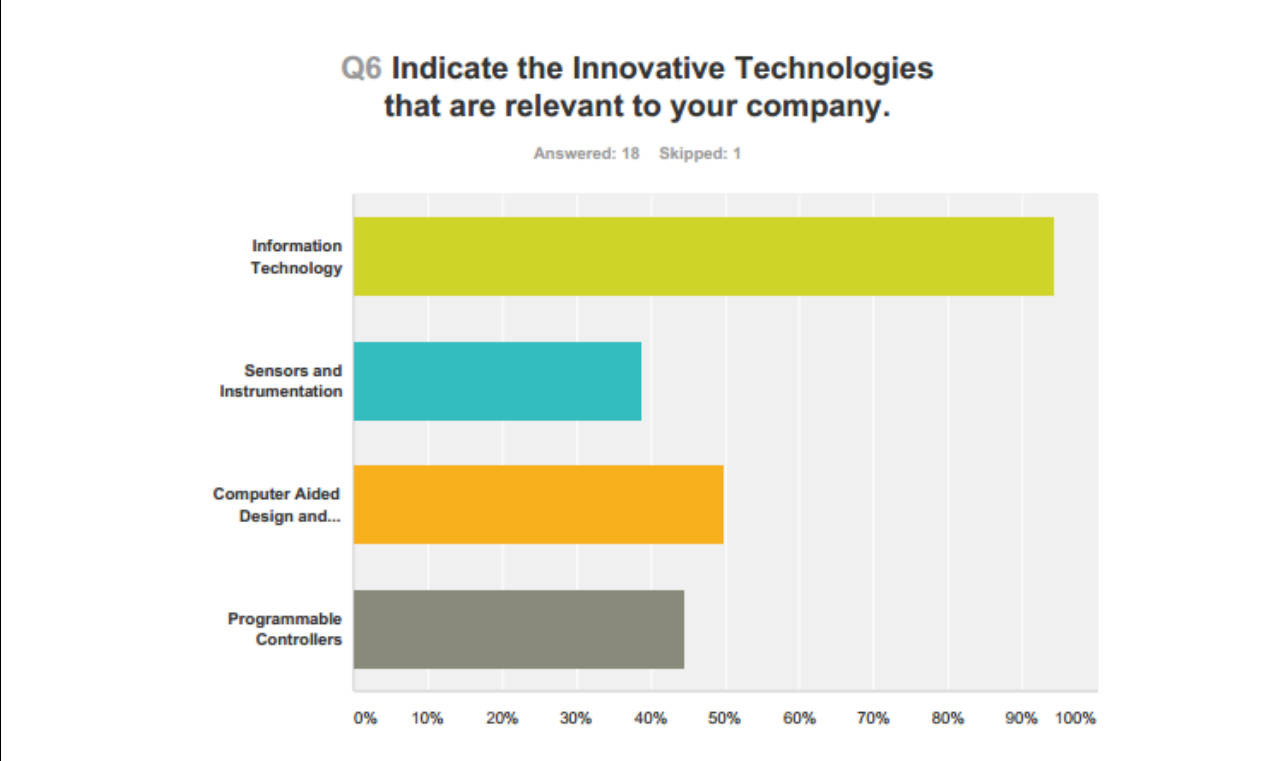
Q9 Which of the following will be most important to your company's future success?

Answered: 17   Skipped: 2
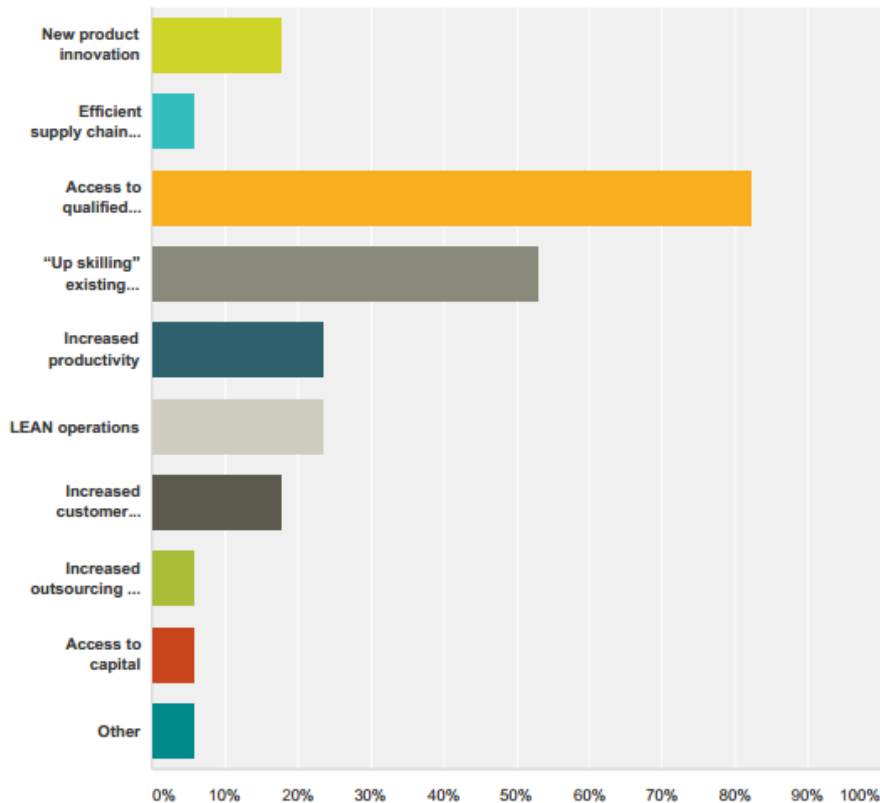
Goals

The primary goal of the Innovative Technologies Center is to align workforce development and academic programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of local and regional employers both now and in the future. These efforts assist in developing a skilled workforce required for regional growth and business expansion. The training will include incumbent worker training, apprenticeship programs, and customized training in addition to the traditional postsecondary technical certificates and associate degrees.

The Innovative Technologies Center will provide access to the technical tools and equipment that are being utilized now and emerging technologies that are on the horizon. Some of the Center's goals that were identified early in the exploratory process include:

1. Providing a clearly defined path for students to complete an education plan from K-12 to employment, working in partnership with K-12 schools and employers
2. Enhancing partnerships with employers to provide additional opportunities for students such as internships, apprenticeships and employment
3. Serving as a resource for employers to research and share best practices and provide consultative services through subject matter experts and students

4. Offering both standardized and customized training to incumbent and future workers
5. Providing incumbent workers with the technical knowledge needed to advance into expert level and supervisory level positions within their organizations
6. Creating pathways for students to transfer their education at four year partner institutions

Partnerships

A variety of unique collaborations with business and industry partners, educators from K-12 to college, and regional economic developers have been formed to assist in the development and deployment of the Innovative Technologies Center, all of whom can envision how an Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence can benefit students, companies, entrepreneurs, and the community. The partnerships are discussed at length in Section 3 of this proposal; however several unique partnerships are described below. These partnerships elevate the importance of workforce development and create a forum for employers to provide input and receive a timely response.

Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce/Hot Springs Metro Partnership

National Park College and the Great Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce/Hot Springs Metro Partnership have established a symbiotic relationship that encourages economic growth in the region. Working together, they have collaboratively established various industry sector partnerships that strengthen engagement among companies, educators, economic developers, and the community. These groups meet quarterly to discuss workforce training needs, job openings, trends and changes within industry, and any other topic that partners want to share.

Hot Springs Aerospace Alliance

The Aerospace Alliance is a long standing partnership and fully engages all facets of the aerospace industry in the region. This group has been instrumental in developing non-credit and credit instruction for existing and future aerospace workers. Industry partners work hand-in-hand with the college to provide instructors, recruit students, develop curriculum, and hire graduates. This collaboration has ensured that there is a significant pipeline of potential entry-level employees for the industry. However, with the aging workforce, companies are finding that there is now a greater need for advanced skills and supervisors.

Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

The Advanced Manufacturing sector partnership was instrumental in the development and implementation of the new Industrial Technology program at National Park College. While this programming fulfilled the need for entry level workers, there is still a significant need for employees with advanced skills in a variety of areas. Local employers are working together through connections at National Park College to gain access to equipment and ideas that enhance their growth opportunities.

Information Technology/Broadband Committee

The Information Technology/Broadband Committee includes a wide range of companies since Information Technology is embedded in all types of business and industry. National Park College has committed resources and established relationships with the participating companies to ensure that college programs reflects the workforce skills needed in the region. Goals for this committee include establishing a Broadband connection throughout Hot Springs and providing the infrastructure and

technology-based workforce to encourage high-tech companies to establish a presence or relocate to the Greater Hot Springs area.

Entrepreneurship Committee

The Entrepreneurship committee is working to establish a co-working space for entrepreneurs and has an interest in close collaboration with the Innovative Technologies Center. Entrepreneurs often need high-tech equipment to create prototypes, but lack the capital to purchase this equipment. The ITC will allow small companies with big ideas access to high-tech equipment that they would not be able to purchase on their own. Through partnerships with the College and local industries, these start-ups will have the opportunity to access resources and provide students opportunities to get in on the ground floor of new business ventures.

Planning Grant Update – Identification of Needs during Planning Phase

National Park College employees hosted a variety of events, visited other college campuses, and attended several meetings during the Planning Grant phase. These activities provided the opportunity to discuss the mission and vision of the Innovative Technologies Center and to gather additional information about the needs of business and industry in the region. A listing of these events and their outcomes is included in Appendix B**.**

These events helped raise awareness of the Innovative Technologies Center and brought people together from around the region to discuss the emerging workforce needs and how to align resources to meet those needs.

Commitment to Raising Enrollment and Attainment Rates in Arkansas

According to the United States Census Bureau's Quick Facts on Garland County, Arkansas (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05/05051.html), 18.7% of the local population lives in poverty. With almost one-fifth of the local population in poverty, an Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence that is open to students, the community, and local business and industry partners could stimulate new entrepreneurial opportunities as well as attract new industry to the region thereby creating opportunities for employment and further investment in the region.

National Park College provides several resources for students in need through its Student Affairs operations. For example, the College participates in both the TRiOs Student Support Services and Career Pathways programs, which provide support for first generation and impoverished students. The College also provides counseling referral services through an onsite licensed Social Worker. NPC also serves the needs of veterans through an active Veterans Affairs office, which provides a private lounge where veterans can socialize and study. In addition to these services, the National Park Adult Education Center, with three locations, has witnessed significant growth and is currently serving nearly 700 students, all of whom are hoping to improve their situation and find employment that will help them provide for their families.

Because of the success in serving the population of Hot Springs, Garland County, and surrounding counties, the College has earned a reputation for dependable service. As a result, numerous business and industry partners, the local chamber, and the school districts support the College's plan to implement an Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence.

SECTION 2 – PROGRAM PLAN   **25 Points**

Program plans must be designed to meet the goals and core requirements of the Regional Workforce Grants program as well as the following Essential Components:

- Detailed project timeline and overview- provide a month-by-month overview of the critical convenings, activities, and actions that will comprise the project.

- Measurable objectives for each phase of the project- detail the metrics utilized throughout the project to track how credentialed job candidates possessing the skills needed by employers will be provided.

- Project governance and accountability plan- clearly describe the plan for governance, meetings, and decision-making structure; identify a project director; and identify members of a project steering committee that will maintain oversight throughout the project period.

- Pathways articulation and support- clearly describe the educational pathway(s) and support services that will be developed, or existing pathways that will be enhanced, to meet the identified workforce needs. Pathways should incorporate all appropriate student outcomes from short-term industry-recognized credentials through the highest certificate or degree programs appropriate to the identified career goals and include career step-out points at the completion of each credential.

- Role of equipment request- required only for those proposals seeking equipment purchases. Outline how equipment purchase will specifically address local labor market needs; provide detailed description of equipment, educational value of equipment in preparing workforce, and justification for purchase.
  NOTE: Equipment may not be purchased during the planning phase

- Performance assessment- clearly define measurable outcomes to be achieved through implementation of the plan and strategies to measure and report achievement of those outcomes. Priority will be given to programs which prepare candidates for high wage jobs or which create capacity to move candidates from unemployment to employment.

- Program plans must be designed to meet the goals and core requirements of the Regional Workforce Grants program. At a minimum, the plan must include a detailed project timeline and overview, measurable objectives for each phase of the project, a project governance and accountability plan, pathways articulation and support, the role of any equipment requested, and a performance assessment.

Keep the following rubric in mind when completing this section:

	Exemplary	Superior	Adequate	Needs Improvement
Program Plan (25 Pts)	Plan addresses all goals and core requirements and properly connects all activities to measurable outcomes that address workforce needs. (22–25 Pts)	Plan addresses most goals and requirements and substantially connects activities to measurable outcomes. (18–21 Pts)	Plan addresses many goals and requirements and connects some activities to measurable outcomes. (14–17 Pts)	Plan lacks significant requirements or connections of activities to measurable outcomes are not clear. (0–13 Pts)

Please enter your answer in the box provided below. Feel free to include any necessary charts, graphs or tables.

Innovative Technologies Center Vision

The program plan is based upon the vision of the ITC to align workforce development and academic programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of local and regional employers, and to create opportunities for K-12 students and the community at large to engage with NPC and industry partners in a high-tech environment. The ITC will be a place for knowledge exchange and entrepreneurial experimentation, serving as a gathering space for teaching, learning, sharing, and doing. The ITC will deliver short term (non-credit) training and serve as an incubator for new and enhanced, long term (credit) educational programs. The ITC will have the flexibility necessary to rapidly meet the emerging training needs of local industry and business partners.

Project Timeline

The two-year project time line is laid out with three broad phases. The first phase includes securing and preparing a work space for the ITC, installing equipment, locating instructional staff, and defining curriculum. The second, or execution phase, involves the actual delivery of training for industry, K-12 schools, and the community. Phase three consolidates the results of phase two into a project report, proposals for new credit program creation and/or enhancements and future planning for the ITC. Each phase overlaps the other based upon the preparation and events that must be completed in order to advance to the next phase. A detailed project timeline may be found in Appendix C.

Noted Events and Activities

Throughout the project period, ITC leadership will participate in advisory committees and educational meetings as noted in the project timeline. The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce convenes quarterly industry partnership meetings to assist and promote local manufacturing and aerospace companies. The Arkansas STEM coalition is also an invaluable source for information and networking.

Computer Science makes many other technologies possible so the ITC will continue to support a variety computer science events. The ITC will host its 2nd annual Code.Connect.Innovate Conference for computer science and information technology faculty and staff that originated during the planning grant. Additionally, the ITC will continue its collaboration with the Mid-America Science Museum to

host National Computer Science Education Week and the Hour of Code events to stimulate interest in all aspects of computer programming/coding.

The ITC will use many avenues to introduce children to modern manufacturing. Through events like Young Manufacturer's Academy and the national Manufacturing Day, the ITC will explore with students the many options for a career in advanced manufacturing.

Service Channels

The ITC will meet local needs through three primary service channels: Non-credit Industry Training Programs, K-12 Enrichment offerings, and Community Tech Events. The coursework developed and delivered through Industry Training Programs (non-credit) will not only meet immediate needs but also serve as an incubator for creation and enhancement of current credit technical programs. K-12 Enrichment offerings will provide K-12 students access to advanced technologies used in manufacturing and throughout society. Community Tech Events draw individuals into the ITC to experience and explore innovative technologies which may lead to further educational or entrepreneurial endeavors. Each service channel is outlined below.

Industry Training Programs

Industry Training Programs are designed to meet skills gaps in the following interconnected technologies used in advanced manufacturing – CNC Machining, 3D Modeling (CAD) & CMM inspection, Industrial Automation (Programmable Controllers, Instrumentation and Robotics), and 3D Printing. The following discussion will describe each subject area, define measureable objectives, provide a description and justification of equipment to be purchased and outline pathways.

Computer Numeric Controls (CNC) Machining

The CNC Machining Training Program will prepare students for high paying jobs as CNC operators and programmers. Local aerospace companies have identified CNC machining and programing as a major skills gap in our area. Direct application of 3D Modeling will allow students to convert 3D design data into tool paths and complete programming using MasterCAM software. Hands on operational experience will then produce the physical part and allow for physical verification against the 3D model.

The objectives of the program are to have at least 12 new and incumbent workers who complete the training and achieve National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) & MasterCAM certifications during the grant period. It is expected that at least nine students will either get a job or receive a pay increase.

The program will procure multiple control simulators, one CNC Mill, one CNC lathe, one CNC router, MasterCAM CNC programming software, and associated tooling. A table saw, welder, and drill press will complete the fabrication lab space. These items are necessary to teach programing and hands-on skills using the same equipment used by industry. Software purchased for the 3D modeling program will also be used here.

Training in CNC machining will not only provide entry level job opportunities but the coursework developed maybe be converted into a Technical Certificate in CNC Machining. Credit courses in CNC machining may also serve to enhance the current Industrial Technology and Aerospace programs

resulting in AAS degrees in Industrial Technology (mechanical emphasis) and in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair. See further discussion below for a complete discussion of academic outcomes and pathways.

Industrial Automation (Programmable Controllers, Instrumentation and Robotics)

Automation drives Advanced Manufacturing, and companies must invest in automation to stay competitive. The ITC will expand learning opportunities in automation beyond our current Industrial Technologies program by offering training in advanced Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), Instrumentation, Robotics, and Process Integration.

The objectives of the program are to have at least ten new and incumbent workers who complete the training and achieve industry certifications such as National Centers for Construction, Education, and Research (NCCER) or Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute (PMMI) during the grant period. It is expected that at least nine students will either get a job or receive a pay increase.

The program will procure portable PLC trainers, integrated robotic workstations, various robot accessories and instrumentation. This will include a variety of small electronics tinkering gear such as an Oscilloscope, bread boards, multi-meters, Arduino kits, little bits kits, soldering irons, etc. These items are necessary to teach hands-on skills in PLC and robotic programming and industrial automation integration.

3D Modeling (CAD) & Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM) Inspection

In the 21st century all things physically manufactured will have a three dimensional model (3D model) created first in a computer. Whether the product is produced through additive or subtractive manufacturing a thorough digital definition of geometry, tolerances and material is required. The ability to create, interpret and analyze these product data definitions is required by local manufacturers from shoe design to aircraft production. The program will include instruction in CATIA and Solidworks to create new prototypes, production parts and tooling, and analyze customer supplied data sets to create planning documents.   The ITC will become a Dassualt Systèmes authorized testing center and offer *CATIA Certification training and testing*. The use of Coordinate Measuring Machines (CMMs) will then be taught to inspect production parts to assure conformance to the original 3D design.

The objectives of the program are to have at least 12 new and incumbent workers who complete the training during the grant period. It is expected that at least ten students will either get a job or receive a pay increase.

The program will require the purchase of CATIA and Solidworks software and a Coordinate Measuring Machine such as a FARO arm. These items will provide the hands on experience necessary to gain applicable skills.

3D Printing

According to the Harvard Business Review "3D printing is poised to redefine global manufacturing and distribution." (April 19, 2016). This new form of manufacturing, which creates parts layer by layer, using material science and digital technology, will disrupt production, supply chains, business models and entire industries. Companies in the region have only begun to explore the versatility and

implications of this powerful new evolving technology for innovation, product development, and speed to market. The possibilities for leveraging this technology in all aspects of product development, production and delivery are endless. The 3D printing program for Industry would address the basic concepts, applications and materials used in commercially available 3D printers. Direct application of 3D Modeling skills will allow students to translate 3D models into functional physical parts. Experience with the print process will teach students the skills necessary to design for this form of production and operate the equipment to produce parts. In addition, the ITC will also be a place for industry to explore and stay abreast of this rapidly changing technology.

The objectives of the program are to have at least eight new and incumbent workers who complete the training during the grant period. It is expected that at least four students will either get a job or receive a pay increase.

The 3D printing program will require the purchase of several 3D printers. A variety of materials, printing processes and printing resolutions will provide options ranging from low cost fused deposition modeling (FDM) prints to stable, high accuracy photopolymer prints depending upon need. Software purchased for the 3D modeling program will also be used here.

Flexible Response Training

Creation of the ITC will also afford a space for flexible, on demand training for local industry and business partners such as short term seminars and workshops in LEAN manufacturing principles through collaboration with Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS).
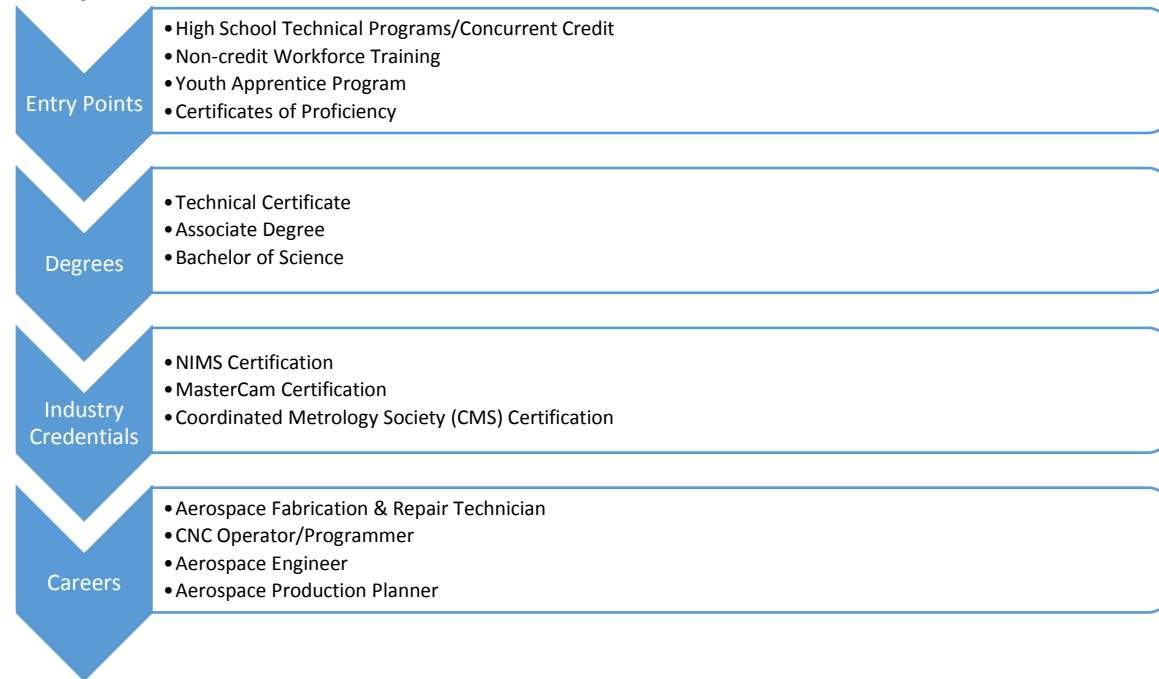
Academic Outcomes and Pathways

The above programs may be combined to achieve the following academic outcomes and pathways. Throughout the grant period, NPC will evaluate demand and sustainability of full credit programs.
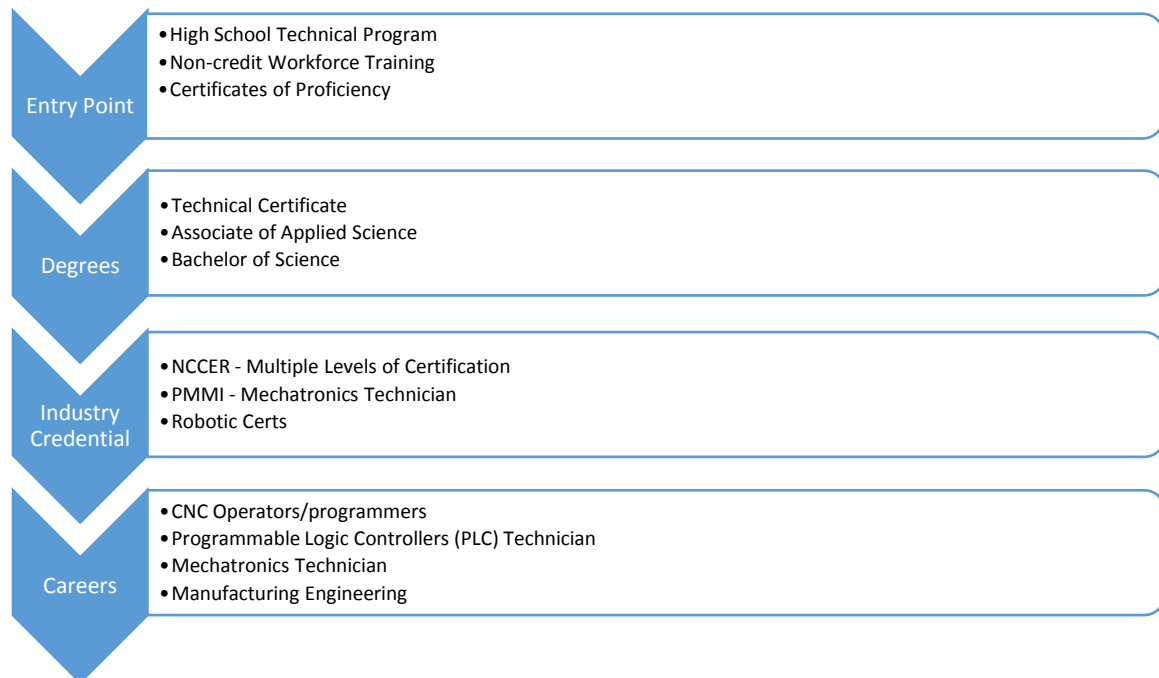
- Expand the current Technical Certificate in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair to an Associates of Applied Science in Aerospace Fabrication and Repair by converting applicable coursework to credit. The AAS would incorporate CNC programming & operation, 3D modeling & analysis, Inspection (CMM and general inspection), and principles of LEAN manufacturing.
- Expand the current Technical Certificate in Industrial Technology to an Associates of Applied Science in Industrial Technology by converting applicable coursework to credit. The AAS in Industrial Technology would include Advanced PLCs, Sensors & Instrumentation, Robotics, and CNC operation.
- Create a Certificate of Proficiency in 3D modeling and 3D printing to compliment the current AS in engineering.
- Identify opportunities to expand Certificate of Proficiency degrees for NPTC programs such as Pre-Engineering and Machine Tooling, which could transfer to College level programs in Industrial Technology, Aerospace, and Engineering.

The following graphics describe several new pathways made possible through implementation of the ITC.

Aerospace

Entry Points
- High School Technical Programs/Concurrent Credit
- Non-credit Workforce Training
- Youth Apprentice Program
- Certificates of Proficiency

Degrees
- Technical Certificate
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor of Science

Industry Credentials
- NIMS Certification
- MasterCam Certification
- Coordinated Metrology Society (CMS) Certification

Careers
- Aerospace Fabrication & Repair Technician
- CNC Operator/Programmer
- Aerospace Engineer
- Aerospace Production Planner

Industrial Technology (Automation or Mechanical emphasis)

Entry Point
- High School Technical Program
- Non-credit Workforce Training
- Certificates of Proficiency

Degrees
- Technical Certificate
- Associate of Applied Science
- Bachelor of Science

Industry Credential
- NCCER - Multiple Levels of Certification
- PMMI - Mechatronics Technician
- Robotic Certs

Careers
- CNC Operators/programmers
- Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) Technician
- Mechatronics Technician
- Manufacturing Engineering

3D Modeling and 3D Printing

Entry Points	•High School Technical Programs/Concurrent Credit •Non-credit Workforce Training •Certificates of Proficiency
Degrees	•Technical Certificate •Associate Degree •Bachelor of Science
Industry Credentials	•CATIA/Solidworks Certification •Stratasys certification
Careers	•Additive Manufacturing Specialist •Additive Manufacturing Designer •Manufacturing Engineer

Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI)

NPC and ACTI recently partnered to develop production technician training for students with disabilities. These basic skills afford students the opportunity to work in industrial settings around the region. The ITC will provide additional opportunities to develop a pipeline of students from ACTI into more advanced high-tech coursework through National Park College and the ITC.

K-12 Enhancement

The Innovative Technologies Center will offer K-12 Enrichment programs for the seven local school districts in the Hot Springs Area. The programs will leverage related technologies to teach and inspire students in manufacturing oriented STEM fields such as Arduino and little bit controllers (including associated coding), robotics, drones, and 3D modeling/printing.

The ITC will also participate in the annual "School WithOut Walls" (SWOW) conference for educators to promote innovative technologies in the classroom.

As programs grow, consideration will be given to additional concurrent credit opportunities which count towards a degree at NPC. Offerings could be added to the program plan as the ITC unfolds with a goal of at least one K-12 Enhancement event per month during each school year.

Community Tech Events

Similar opportunities will be offered to the community through Community Tech Events. Classes in Programmable Controllers (Arduino, little bits), Drone Basics, 3D modeling and 3D printing will introduce the public to the technologies and promote exploration and entrepreneurship. In addition,

the ITC will develop a quarterly lecture series which will introduce emerging technologies and new high-tech initiatives to the general public. Additional offerings will be added to the program plan as the ITC unfolds with a goal of two events per month.

Marketing Plan

The ITC will implement a cost effective yet comprehensive marketing plan that leverages technology to maintain communications with constituents and stakeholders. Long term sustainment will be dependent upon ITC awareness throughout industry, education and the community.

General ITC promotion will target the entire community to create awareness and ITC brand recognition. This will include an ITC specific Logo, web presence, and printed materials such as business cards, rack cards and flyers. Email marketing and social media will be used to generate and maintain engagement. A newsletter with the latest ITC news and upcoming events for Industry, K12 and the community will circulate periodically. Other opportunities include Hobbyist groups (computer clubs), professional groups (HS Engineering Society), community bulletin boards, no-cost earned advertising on radio talk shows and in the newspaper.

Targeted marketing will depend upon the service channel being promoted - Industry Training Programs, K-12 Enrichment offerings, and Community Tech Events. Industry training programs will be promoted primarily through established workforce connections and be supplemented by email blasts. K-12 Enhancement offerings will use established connections with school districts through the Trio program and the NPC High School Tech Center. Perhaps requiring the most effort, the Community Tech Events will use all of the marketing options noted above to grow community interested in technology education and technology adoption.

Project Governance and Accountability

Project governance and accountability will be managed through the administrative structure of National Park College. NPC has a fully-integrated, college-wide decision making model that includes Academic Affairs, Fiscal Affairs, Accreditation, and Quality Improvement. Oversight for this initiative is provided by National Park College's President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Workforce and Strategic Initiatives. Additional oversight will be provided through quarterly meetings of the Aerospace and Manufacturing committees hosted by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Project management and fiscal oversight will be managed by the Project Director in conjunction with the Vice President for Workforce and Strategic Initiatives, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Controller, and additional business office staff.

SECTION 3 – STRENGTH OF PARTNERSHIP **20 Points**

Proposals are required to address how the program plan incorporates each of the mandatory partners, as identified above, in a meaningful role.

Essential Components:

- Detailed description of role of each partner in implementation of the project- describe how each partner will carry out components of the grant project; provide a description of assigned tasks for each of the mandatory partners; identify specific personnel and the roles they will play throughout the project; describe the integration of each role into the overall project; and describe the process for implementing fully articulated pathways from K-12 through a baccalaureate degree, as appropriate.

- Capabilities of each partner in ensuring project success- discuss the unique strengths of each partner in executing planned proposal; describe how each partner is qualified to participate in the proposed project and how each partners strengthens the overall partnership.

- Consideration of all potential partners in the region – describe the process for identifying each selected partner, including the consideration of regional community colleges, universities, public schools, education service cooperatives, businesses and industries, career and technical education programs, multidistrict vocational centers, and private partnerships.

Keep the following rubric in mind when completing this section:

	Exemplary	**Superior**	**Adequate**	**Needs Improvement**
Strength of Partnership (20 Pts)	Plan includes broad representation and each partner has a defined role with identified critical contributions. (18–20 Pts)	Plan includes broad representation but partner roles are not clearly defined. (15–17 Pts)	Plan lacks one or two important partners or not all partners are critical to success of the plan. (11–14 Pts)	Partner participation is too narrow or some partners do not contribute meaningfully. (0–10 Pts)

Please enter your answer in the box provided below. Feel free to include any necessary charts, graphs or tables.

Overview

National Park College's Innovation Technologies Center of Excellence is a project driven by the needs of our regional business and industry partners. The College has long established strong ties with business and industry. The Hot Springs Metro Partnership and National Park College have worked in tandem to establish active advisory councils in industry sectors such as aerospace, information technology, entrepreneurship, and manufacturing. Meetings are held each quarter, providing companies an opportunity to express immediate concerns as well as engage in long-term sector partnerships and planning.

A variety of unique collaborations with business and industry partners, educators from K-12 to college, and regional economic developers have been formed to assist in the development and deployment of the Innovative Technologies Center, all of whom can envision how an Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence can benefit students, companies, entrepreneurs, and the community.

There are seven school districts in Garland County. All seven school districts are acutely aware of the Innovative Technologies Center and the benefits for the students. Students from all seven schools districts already participate in Young Manufacturers Academy, Manufacturing Day, and STEM Camps. Additionally, students from the region participate in our Talent Search program, which promotes college enrollment and completion.

The National Park Technology Center provides high school technical programs on the NPC campus and serves approximately 700 students from all of the Garland County school districts and surrounding region. The National Park Technology Center (NPTC) prepares students with a number of skills that lead to college credit in areas such as pre-Engineering, Wood Technology, and Machine Tool Technology. In addition, NPTC is adding a program of study in Mobile Applications in Fall 2016. These areas of study create a pipeline of students from the high school into the postsecondary courses of study. For example, students completing the projected Mobile Applications course of study would receive a Certificate of Proficiency and earn credit toward their Associate of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems. These students, both secondary and postsecondary, would benefit from the technology and training possibilities located in an Innovative Technologies Center.

Support Letters from Regional Partners

Support letters from grant partners are provided in Appendix D. A list and brief description of supporters follows:

West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board & West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District

The West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board continues to develop programs and services that benefit residents of the region. Some of these programs enhance National Park College's ability to quickly identify emerging needs of employers. Meanwhile, data provided by the Workforce Development Board provides students with a better understanding of the workforce needs in the region and the training opportunities that are available to them in the area.

Dwayne Pratt, Executive Director of the WCA Planning and Development District, has been instrumental in building relationships between the College and the Entrepreneurship Committee. Mr. Pratt serves as Chair of the Committee and is committed to assisting National Park College meet the goals of the ITC. NPC employees directly involved with the ITC Grant participate in the Entrepreneurship Committee. This appointment was a direct result of a presentation that provided by ITC Planning Grant College employees. The Entrepreneurship Committee envisions a co-sponsored space for the ITC and the Incubator program that would serve start-up companies as well as existing companies. This potential co-location could provide an avenue to enhance sustainability and would benefit students, existing industries, and entrepreneurs. Collaboration ensures that we do not duplicate services and that we share in any potential investments from the city, county, or state.

Aerospace Companies (AirTech Supply and CMT, Inc.)

AirTech Supply and CMT, Inc. are integral partners in the aerospace industry sector. Both companies assist the College in identifying core needs for training and development of existing and future workers in all four areas within the Innovative Technologies Center. Specific needs within the aerospace industry include highly skilled workers with experience in Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing and Programmable Controllers. This industry sector has an immediate need for Aircraft Technicians, CNC Operators, and Engineers.

Aerospace representatives Mark Sorrell (AirTech Supply) and Tom Butler (CMT, Inc.) serve on various boards at the local and state level. They advocate for continued state, regional, and local resources. Mr. Sorrell sits on the advisory committee for the credit and non-credit aerospace programs and is a Board Member for the Arkansas Aerospace & Defense Alliance. AirTech Supply has directly hired five students from the non-credit Aerospace program and schedules regular continuing education for its employees. Mr. Butler is a member of the Hot Springs Metro Partnership and is the Chair of the Aerospace Industry Committee.   His long-term expertise in the region's aerospace industry provides the College with expertise on trends and long-term needs for the aerospace companies in the region. CMT, Inc. has hired several recent graduates from our non-credit program and has done a significant amount of workforce training for his incumbent workers.

Both Mr. Sorrell and Mr. Butler will provide guidance as curriculum is developed in the CAD/CAM and CNC Programming areas. Their continued commitment to provide incumbent workforce training and support of current and future programs associated with aerospace helps ensure the sustainability of the Innovative Technologies Center and the Aerospace Programs at NPC.

Berry Plastics

Berry Plastics is a long-term, deeply engaged industry partner of National Park College. It served as an Industry Champion for the TAACCCT grant that establish the Industrial Technology program at NPC. Laura Brody, Director of Human Resources at Berry Plastics, understands the company's return on investment from upskilling existing employees. Berry institutes an employee incentive programs that provides hourly increases for those employees who complete training at NPC. This program has trained existing Berry Plastics employees over the past two years. Berry Plastics continues to assist the College in identifying core needs for training and development of existing and future workers in all four areas within the Innovative Technologies Center. Specific needs within the advanced manufacturing sector include training programs in Sensors, Instrumentation and Programmable Controllers. This industry sector has an immediate need for Engineers, Maintenance Technicians, and Production Technicians.

Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce (Hot Springs Metro Partnership)

As referenced in Section 1 – Partnerships, National Park College has a strong partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. Jim Fram, CEO of the Chamber, engages college employees in all of the different boards and committees to ensure that there is a local educational presence in matters of economic development and job creation. Mr. Fram understands how creating programs that align with business and industry can impact the region's economic development efforts. While the two entities have shared a strong relationship for many years, we are seeking to enhance our efforts through the creation of the Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence.

Hot Springs School District

While National Park College intends to partner with all of the school districts within the region, Hot Springs School District is taking a leadership role in defining the alignment between K-12 and college. NPC intends to build upon its strong partnerships, enhance concurrent credit enrollment, and provide additional opportunities for students to complete coursework through the college while receiving college credit. These efforts are in addition to National Park Technical Center's plan to launch a new program in Mobile Applications Program this fall. The new program and the efforts of the ITC to expand outreach to K-12 partners will further enhance the offerings related to Information Technology and Coding in the West Central Arkansas region. Additionally, NPC employees are also involved in the implementation of the Hot Springs World Class High School Charter Academies. Meetings are already underway with Dr. Mike Hernandez, Superintendent of HSSD, on how the ITC can establish ties through the academies to augment the course offerings for students.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

National Park College and UALR are continuing efforts to provide seamless pathways into the programs that align with our Information Technology and Computer Information Systems degrees. Additionally, UALR and NPC are identifying other areas of cross-programming in emerging analytics and gaming programs.

Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI)

ACTI and NPC currently partner in many different academic fields. ACTI students attend classes on the NPC campus. With the development of the Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence, additional program sharing partnerships would be possible and allow students to take specific classes at either campus. This effort will help decrease the amount of redundant programming, maximize space usage, and provide a broader array of course and program offerings to all students. As mentioned in Section 2 – Program Plan, Jonathan Bibb, Director of ACTI, and NPC leadership have established programs for ACTI students that provide college credits and pathways into Technical Certificate programs in Industrial Technology.

Since the conception of the Innovative Technologies Center Vision, National Park College's main focus has been identifying ways to collaborate with business and industry, other colleges and universities, K-12 systems, and the community. The ITC can service as a regional resource for all constituents to exchange ideas, learn new concepts, help others, engage students, achieve success, and build a future technology-based workforce in Hot Springs and the surrounding region. The success of this plan lies in the commitment of the community. Through the letters of support, NPC has provided evidence that there is widespread support of this endeavor across Garland County.
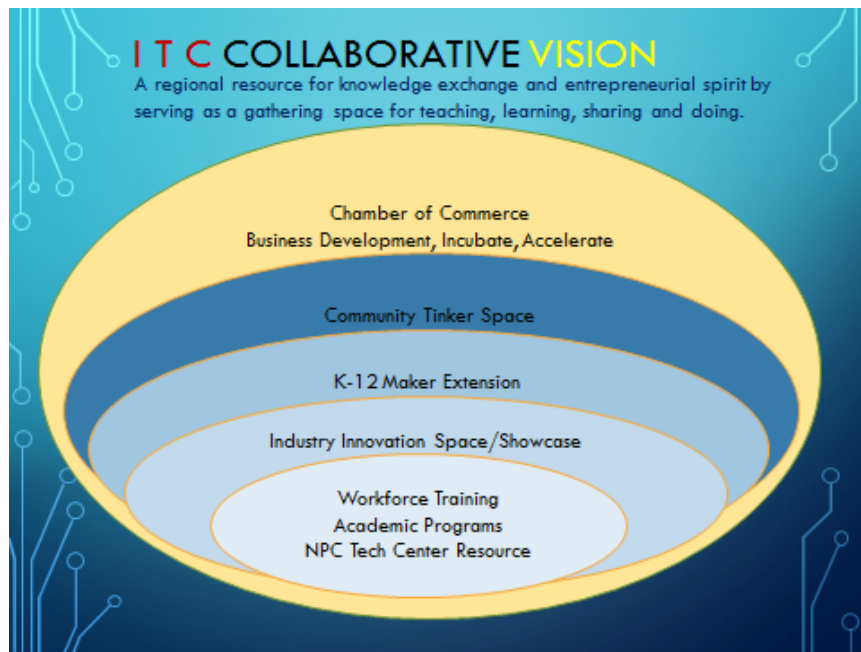
SECTION 4 – BUDGET PLAN   **15 Points**

Proposals will include a detailed financial plan that maximizes efficient use of existing resources and a completed budget template.

Essential Components:

- Clear alignment between funding request and grant activities- detailed discussion of how each component of the grant budget supports the goals and stated outcomes of the program.
- Institutions may request up to $1 million over two years that will provide resources to implement approved Phase 1 projects.
- Local match of at least 10% of the total request, with a maximum cap of $50,000- all proposals will include a plan for local funding to match 10% of the total grant proposal. For example, a grant requesting $400,000 in funding would be required to provide $40,000 in matching funds. However, the local match is capped at $50,000, meaning grants in excess of $500,000 will have the same match as a $500,000 project.

Note: With a submitted written commitment and payment guarantee from an industry partner, internship wages paid during the initial twenty-four (24) months of this program may be used to offset the local match amount on a dollar-to-dollar basis. Additionally, wages paid to incumbent workers of the employer while enrolled in academic training may be deducted from the match as well. Any entity wishing to utilize this method of funding the match must include the appropriate documentation with their proposal and, if selected for funding, will be monitored to ensure compliance.

Keep the following rubric in mind when completing this section:

	Exemplary	**Superior**	**Adequate**	**Needs Improvement**
Budget Plan (15 Pts)	Plan identifies efficiencies that take full advantage of existing human and physical resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (13-15 Pts)	Plan includes significant efficiencies from existing resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (10-12 Pts)	Plan includes limited efficiencies from existing resources or includes some questionable resource requests. (7-9 Pts)	Budget includes limited or no existing resources from partners or includes requests deemed unnecessary. (0–6 Pts)

Section 4.1 – Budget Plan Detail
Please provide your detailed financial plan in the box below.

<div style="border:1px solid">

Budget Plan

The ITC envisions an entire enterprise of learning, growing and doing, so the budget plan is broad and encompasses many needs from procuring a work space to purchasing equipment, hiring faculty and delivering education. The budget summary may be found below and a more detailed budget may be found in Appendix E.

The primary personnel employed by the grant will be the Direct of the ITC and a multi-craft instructor. The director and instructor will be involved in all aspects of the program plan from renovations and procurement which create the ITC space to delivering the various channels of instruction and writing reports and proposals. Additional adjunct instructors will be employed as needed to supplement specific subject areas.

The Travel budget line will cover trips to collaborate with other institutions, attend instructor training as needed and participate in technology conferences.

The Equipment required will include procuring large industrial CNC machining equipment, controls, automation and robotics equipment mentioned above in the program plan.

The Materials and Supplies required will be furniture for the ITC space, computers and small equipment to outfit the lab, plus the software, miscellaneous supplies and curriculum needed to offer the programs described in the program plan above.

The marketing plan uses low cost technology to keep the ITC's Value and Mission fresh in the public's mind to promote technology awareness and education. Details of the marketing plan may be found in the program plan above.

ITC management expects to consult with industry and entrepreneurial experts such as Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS) and The Venture Center to assure relevance and sustainability to the overall program.

The "Other" line item covers recurring and non-recurring costs associated with the ITC workspace. Facilities renovations will be required to support needed equipment (electrical, HVAC and shop air) and comply with occupancy codes (additional bathroom). Recurring costs include rent, utilities and security.

</div>

The grant requirement for Local Matching funds is met through a combination of contributing partners as follows:

Partner	Contribution	Match amount
NPC	Admin Assistant to ITC	$12,000
NPC	VP Strategic Initiatives	$10,000
NPC	Furniture	$2,000
NPC	Signage for ITC	$3,000
Entergy	3-phase installation	$6,000
HAAS	Price reductions	$15,000
Various local industries	Raw material donations	$2,000
	Total Match	$50,000

Section 4.2 – Budget Plan Template
Please complete the budget template below. Totals will calculate automatically based on your input. Institutions may request up to $1 million in grant funding for Phase 2 Projects.

Requesting Institution:	National Park College
Title of Project:	Innovative Technologies Center

A. PROGRAM LEADERSHIP SUPPORT COSTS

1. Personnel/Stipend	$308,900.00
2. Travel	$8,000.00
3. Other (Explain Below)	$0.00
Briefly Explain Other Costs	
TOTAL PARTNER PARTICIPANT COSTS	$316,900.00

B. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

1. Equipment	$406,300.00
2. Materials and Supplies	$89,000.00
3. Publication Costs/Documentation/Dissemination	$6,000.00
4. Consultant Services	$4,000.00
5. Other (Explain Below)	$99,820.00
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS	$605,120.00

C. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A & B) — $922,020.00

D. COST SHARING (Minimum 10% of C; up to $50,000) — $50,000.00

Total Implementation Grant Budget — $972,020.00

Other Notes

The "Other" line item covers recurring and non-recurring costs associated with the ITC workspace. Facilities renovations will be required to support needed equipment (electrical, HVAC and shop air) and comply with occupancy codes (additional bathroom). Recurring costs include rent, utilities and security.

SECTION 5 - SUSTAINABILITY **20 Points**

Proposals will include a commitment and detailed plan for sustaining grant activities beyond the twenty-four (24) month implementation period. Equipment requests will clearly specify how purchased equipment will continue to be linked to addressing labor and workforce needs beyond the grant period.

Essential Components:

- Detailed plan for sustaining the program beyond the twenty-four (24) month implementation grant funding period- describe how the work supported by this grant will continue beyond the grant period; outline the roles and funding sources of each partner after the grant period.

- Detailed plan for maintaining communication and sharing resources among all the program partners beyond the twenty-four (24) month funding period;

- Identify availability of long-term resources to maintain and/or repair any equipment requested.

- Describe plan for redistribution of equipment to meet additional workforce needs once the employer needs addressed by the proposal have been satisfied.

	Exemplary	**Superior**	**Adequate**	**Needs Improvement**
Sustainability (20 Pts)	Identifies existing resources to continue the program with no reduction in services at the end of grant funding period. (18–20 Pts)	Identifies significant resources to continue the program with limited reduction in services at the end of grant funding period. (15-17 Pts)	Identifies limited resources to continue the program or proposes significant reduction in services at the end of grant funding period. (11-14 Pts)	New funding sources must be identified for continuation of program at the end of grant funding. (0-10 Pts)

Please enter your answer in the box provided below. Feel free to include any necessary charts, graphs or tables.

The Innovative Technologies Center is designed to be a long term technology resource for Garland County and the entire region. It is anticipated that as industry grows so will the demands for new and innovative technologies and related skillsets. As environmental conditions allow workforce programs will be transitioned to credit programs and new workforce programs will be developed to support emerging industry needs. For example, the need for injection molding skills is growing and the ITC is well suited to create a workforce program which will provide instruction from mold design (3D modeling/analysis) through equipment setup and operation (automation).

Funding Sources

- National Park College – NPC has a long-term commitment to the ITC and anticipates that some of the required funding for sustainability will eventually come from the E&G budget.
- NPC Foundation – The NPC Foundation has established a variety of fundraising events to assist students with scholarships for programs and also funding for equipment and major purchases. The Innovative Technologies Center will be another opportunity for giving at the College.
- Memberships – Some funding will come from community members and industry partners that want to join the ITC as members. The membership levels will be established by the ITC Planning Committee after the Implementation Grant funding is awarded.
- Special events – The ITC hosted an IT Conference for Higher Education during the Planning Phase which proved to be a potential revenue stream for future events and an annual event would help offset funding needs for the ITC. Additional Conferences and a Speaker Series are planned during the first 24 months to determine the feasibility of these events being an ongoing part of the sustainability plan.
- Customized training fees – NPC already has an established revenue stream from customized training through Workforce Development. The ITC will provide additional opportunities to deliver more advanced training to business and industry.
- Sponsorships – Suppliers and other ITC partners could host special events at the ITC for a nominal to showcase new equipment, new products, and/or services to business and industry in the region.

Sustainability Action Plan

In order to build and maintain sustainability, a Sustainability Action Plan will be established. The Plan will include the following elements:

- Establish a planning team – ITC staff will assemble a mix of NPC faculty and staff, administrators, and external stakeholders from K-12, industry, and the local community to serve as the planning team. This planning team will review services, programs, and activities of the ITC and make recommendations for improvement.
- Develop a strategic plan – The ITC will develop and deploy a strategic plan that aligns with NPC's strategic planning process. The plan will include short, medium, and long term outcomes including efforts to achieve sustainability. A clear plan will help define the vision of the Center and unit all stakeholders in achieving sustainability.

- Conduct sustainability assessment – The planning team and other stakeholders will review sustainability assessment tools. Additionally, the Venture Center will be contacted to see if they can offer in-kind advice and support to help the ITC achieve sustainability.
- Determine if programs need to be scaled down or discontinued – The initial ITC is ambitious, so ongoing assessment of activities will be crucial to attaining sustainability. Consideration will be given to those activities that prove more beneficial than others. As an Innovative Technologies Center, it is expected that the activities and programs will evolve as technology changes.
- Prioritize the areas of sustainability capacity to address first – There will be certain areas that are crucial to meet the needs of business and industry that will
- Develop an action plan with specific steps to strengthen and build program's sustainability capacity – This Action Plan will strengthen and build the ITC's sustainability capacity.
- Implement action plan – Implementing the Action Plan will take time and commitment. This plan will help guide the ongoing management of the ITC and help determine specific activities. Program feedback and continuous improvement will be key components to the Action Plan.
- Reassess you sustainability capacity annually – The ITC will embrace the Continuous Quality Improvement Cycle as part of its sustainability plan. To ensure that programs are meeting the needs of ITC constituents, programs will be developed, implemented, and then evaluated. Each year, the planning team will review the Continuous Quality Improvement Plan and make recommendations for changes and enhancements.

Continuous Quality Improvement Cycle

Plan for Communication and Sharing Resources

Communication with constituents and stakeholders will be vital to the ongoing success of the ITC. Whether filling industry classes, staffing a lecture series or sparking the imagination of a child the free flow of creative ideas will be the life blood of the ITC. The marking plan noted above in the program planning section will provide necessary communication and sharing of resources.

Resources to Maintain Equipment

The resources necessary to maintain equipment and provide supplies will come from the revenue stream noted above. As noted, it is expected that the equipment purchased under this grant will persist through the foreseeable future.

SUBMIT BY JUNE 1, 2016

Email to ADHE.Workforce.Grant@adhe.edu

Applications will only be accepted for projects that were awarded a planning grant.

IMPLEMENTATION GRANT SCORING RUBRIC

Critical Elements	Exemplary	Superior	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Value
Program Need	Significantly addresses a top 3 workforce need in the region. (18–20 Pts)	Addresses in a more limited way a top 3 workforce need in the region. (15–17 Pts)	Addresses in a limited way a less critical workforce need in the region. (11-14 Pts)	Identified labor need is too narrow or not in a critical area. (0–10 Pts)	20 Pts
Program Plan	Plan identifies efficiencies that take full advantage of existing human and physical resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (13-15 Pts)	Plan includes significant efficiencies from existing resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (10-12 Pts)	Plan includes limited efficiencies from existing resources or includes some questionable resource requests. (7-9 Pts)	Budget includes limited or no existing resources from partners or includes requests deemed unnecessary. (0–6 Pts)	25 Pts
Strength of Partnership	Plan includes broad representation and each partner has a defined role with identified critical contributions. (18–20 Pts)	Plan includes broad representation but partner roles are not clearly defined. (15–17 Pts)	Plan lacks one or two important partners or not all partners are critical to success of the plan. (11–14 Pts)	Partner participation is too narrow or some partners do not contribute meaningfully. (0–10 Pts)	20 Pts
Budget Plan	Plan identifies efficiencies that take full advantage of existing human and physical resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (13-15 Pts)	Plan includes significant efficiencies from existing resources and all requested resources clearly support the goals of the plan. (10-12 Pts)	Plan includes limited efficiencies from existing resources or includes some questionable resource requests. (7-9 Pts)	Budget includes limited or no existing resources from partners or includes requests deemed unnecessary. (0–6 Pts)	15 Pts
Sustainability	Identifies existing resources to continue the program with no reduction in services at the end of grant funding. period (18–20 Pts)	Identifies significant resources to continue the program with limited reduction in services at the end of grant funding. period (15-17 Pts)	Identifies limited resources to continue the program or proposes significant reduction in services at the end of grant. funding period (11-14 Pts)	New funding sources must be identified for continuation of program at the end of grant funding. (0-10 Pts)	20 Pts
				Total Points Possible	**100 Pts**

Q1 Local Company Information

Answered: 15   Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses	
Contact Name:	**100.00%**	15
Company:	**100.00%**	15
Address:	**100.00%**	15
Address 2:	**0.00%**	0
City/Town:	**100.00%**	15
State:	**100.00%**	15
ZIP:	**100.00%**	15
Country:	**0.00%**	0
Email Address:	**100.00%**	15
Phone Number:	**93.33%**	14

#	Contact Name:	Date
1	Benjamin M. Van Wagner	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	Robert Gray	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	Tom Hare	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	Jesus Mendez	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	Tina Albright	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	Jeff Winter	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	Chip Stewart	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	Mark Sorrell	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	Bryce Walker	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	Shena Ball	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	Justin Orrell	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	Robert Hassell	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	Andy Trantham	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	Chance Megginson	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
15	Jonathan Dumler	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

#	Company:	Date
1	Oaklawn Jockey Club	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	Mountain Pine School District	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	Triumph Fabrications - Hot Springs	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	First Step	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	National Park Medical Center	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	City of Hot Springs	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	HealthStar Physicians	8/19/2015 7:20 PM

8	Airtech Supply, Inc.	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	Hot Springs School District	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	Mid-America Science Museum	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	Lake Hamilton School District	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	W. P. Malone, Inc.	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	Baxley Equipment/LogPro	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	Jessieville School District	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
15	Instrument & Supply, Inc.	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

#	Address:	Date
1	2705 Central Ave	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	P.O. Box 1	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	1923 Central Avenue	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	201 W Belding	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	1910 Malvern Avenue	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	111 Opera St	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	1661 Airport Rd Suite D	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	3058 Highway 290	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	400 Linwood Ave	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	500 Mid-America Blvd	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	205 Wolf Street	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	518 Clay St.	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	400 Aviation Plaza	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	7900 N Hwy 7	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
15	PO Box 1679	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

#	Address 2:	Date
	There are no responses.	

#	City/Town:	Date
1	Hot Springs	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	Mountain Pine	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	Hot Springs	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	Hot Springs	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	Hot Springs	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	Pearcy	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	Arkadelphia	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	Hot Springs	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	Jessieville	8/19/2015 3:10 PM

| 15 | Hot Springs | 8/19/2015 2:56 PM |

#	State:	Date
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2	AR	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	AR	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	AR	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
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15	AR	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

#	ZIP:	Date
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10	71913	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	71964	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	71923	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	71913	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	71949	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
15	71902	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

#	Country:	Date
	There are no responses.	

#	Email Address:	Date
1	bvanwagner@oaklawn.com	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	Robert.Gray@mpsdrd.com	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	thare@triumphgroup.com	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	jesus.mendez@fstep.org	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	tina.albright@npmchs.com	8/20/2015 6:18 AM

#		Date
6	jwinter@cityhs.net	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	chip@healthstarphysicians.com	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	msorrell@airtechsupply.com	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	walkerb@hssd.net	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	shenab@midamericamuseum.org	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	jorrell@lh.k12.ar.us	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	robert@allcarepharmacy.com	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	andyt@baxleyequipment.com	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	chance.megginson@jsdlions.net	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
15	jonathand@isiequip.com	8/19/2015 2:56 PM
#	**Phone Number:**	**Date**
1	5017015690	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	501-767-1540	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	501-622-4224	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	501-620-6614	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	501-620-1303	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	5013216835	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	501-617-8900	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	501-525-7707 X102	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	501-624-3372	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	501-767-3461 ext 113	8/19/2015 3:36 PM
11	5017606800	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
12	870-245-1725	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
13	5016230065	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
14	501-262-3282	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

Q2 What is your company's primary industry cluster?

Answered: 15   Skipped: 0
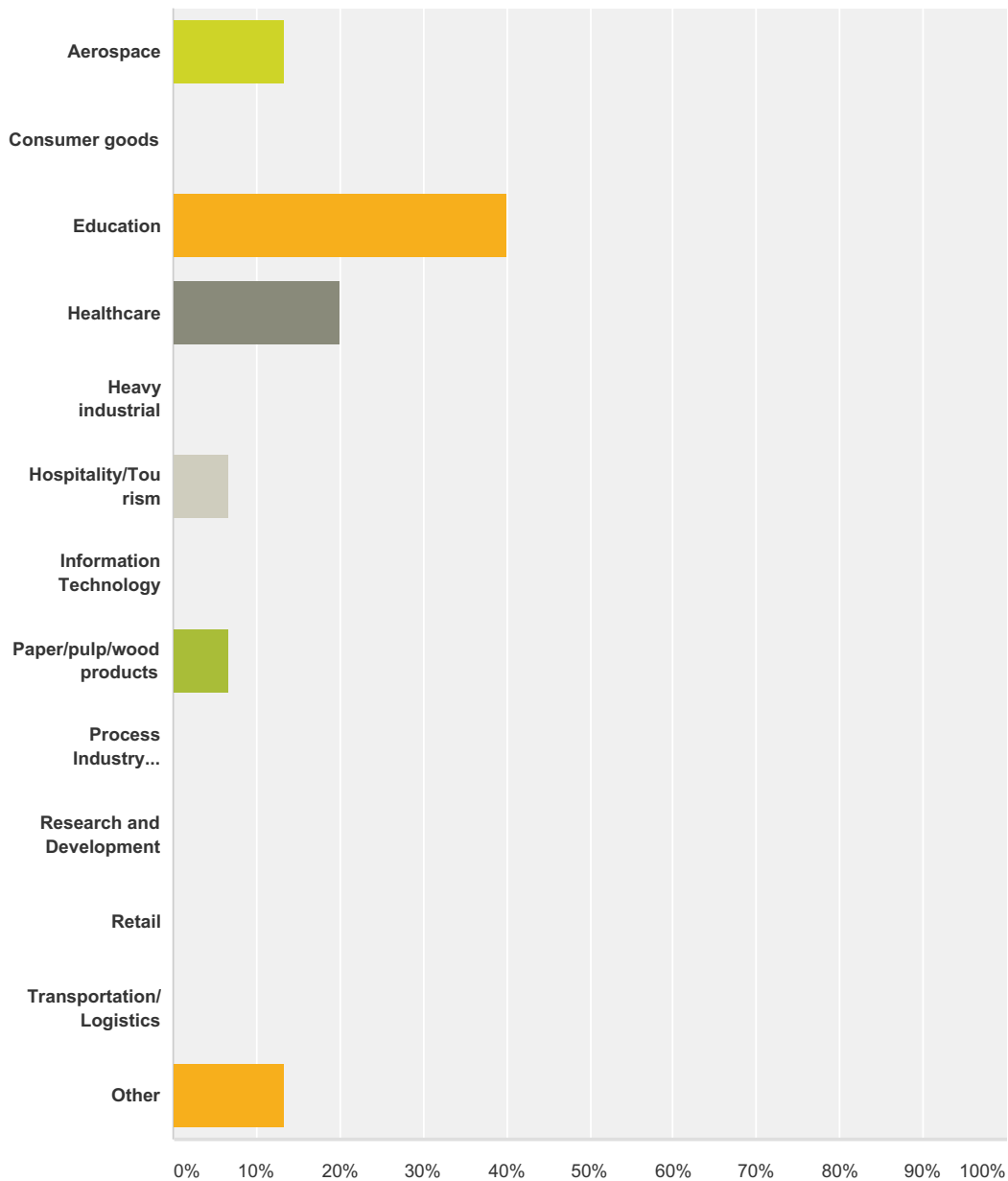
Answer Choices	Responses	
Aerospace	**13.33%**	2
Consumer goods	**0.00%**	0
Education	**40.00%**	6
Healthcare	**20.00%**	3
Heavy industrial	**0.00%**	0

Hospitality/Tourism	**6.67%**	1
Information Technology	**0.00%**	0
Paper/pulp/wood products	**6.67%**	1
Process Industry (Petro, Chemical)	**0.00%**	0
Research and Development	**0.00%**	0
Retail	**0.00%**	0
Transportation/Logistics	**0.00%**	0
Other	**13.33%**	2
Total		**15**

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Local Government	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
2	Water and Wastewater Controls and Equipment	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence

Q3 What is your primary product or service?

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	Entertainment through gambling	8/26/2015 9:27 AM
2	Educational	8/24/2015 11:26 AM
3	Aircraft Parts	8/20/2015 10:42 AM
4	Software Development.	8/20/2015 7:43 AM
5	Healthcare	8/20/2015 6:18 AM
6	Public Service	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
7	healthcare	8/19/2015 7:20 PM
8	Detail aircraft parts	8/19/2015 4:41 PM
9	Educated Students	8/19/2015 3:38 PM
10	Technology Implementation and Support	8/19/2015 3:23 PM
11	Pharmacy	8/19/2015 3:21 PM
12	Equipment Manufacturer	8/19/2015 3:11 PM
13	Education	8/19/2015 3:10 PM
14	HMI and Controls Equipment	8/19/2015 2:56 PM

Q4 What is your company's ownership status?

Answered: 15   Skipped: 0
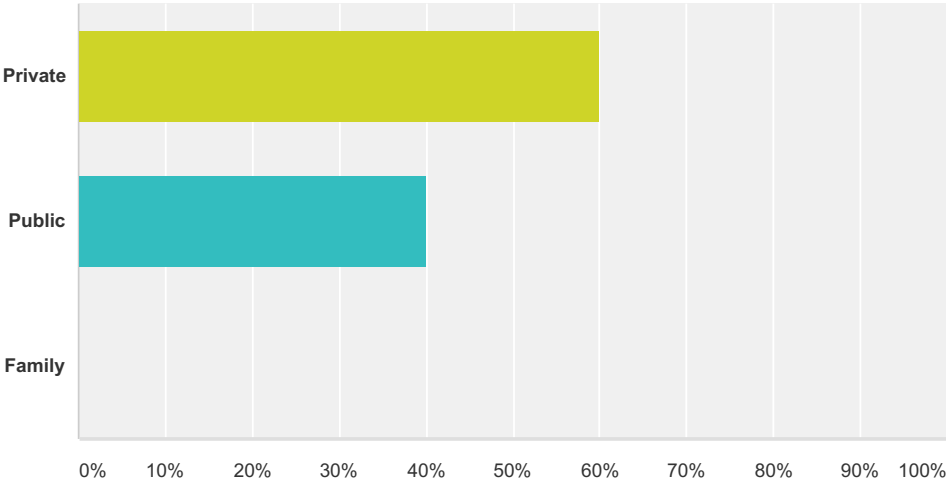
Answer Choices	Responses	
Private	**60.00%**	9
Public	**40.00%**	6
Family	**0.00%**	0
Total		**15**

Q5 How many people do you employ?

Answered: 15   Skipped: 0
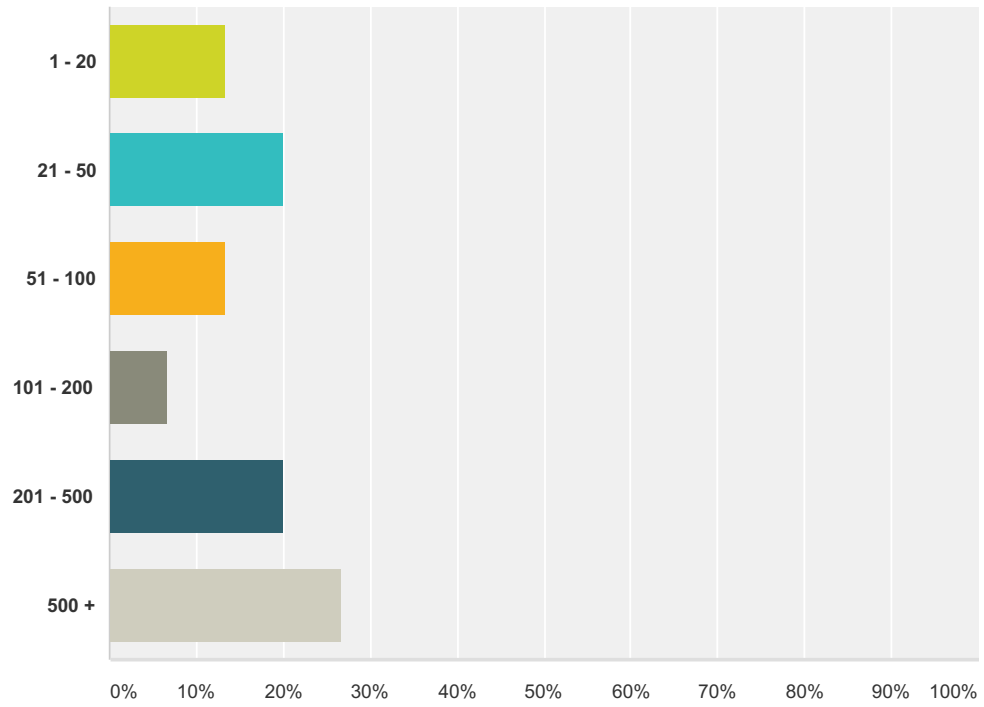
Answer Choices	Responses	
1 - 20	**13.33%**	2
21 - 50	**20.00%**	3
51 - 100	**13.33%**	2
101 - 200	**6.67%**	1
201 - 500	**20.00%**	3
500 +	**26.67%**	4
Total		**15**

Q6 Indicate the Innovative Technologies that are relevant to your company.

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1
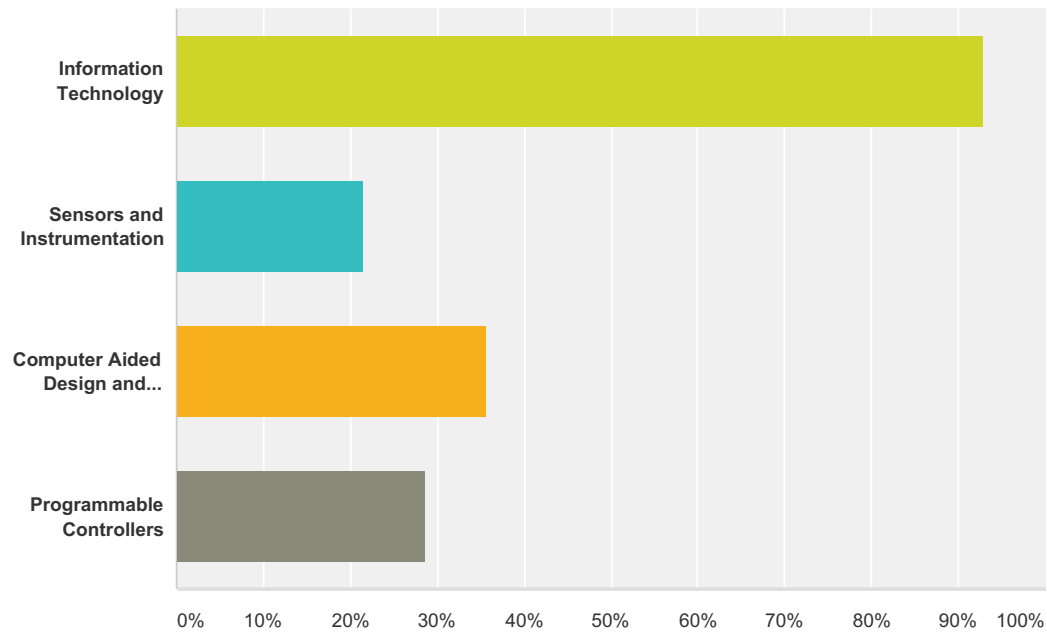
Answer Choices	Responses	
Information Technology	**92.86%**	13
Sensors and Instrumentation	**21.43%**	3
Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing	**35.71%**	5
Programmable Controllers	**28.57%**	4
Total Respondents: 14		

Q7 Please list job titles in your company that fall under these four areas.

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses	
Information Technology	**92.86%**	13
Sensors and Instrumentation	**21.43%**	3
Computer Assisted Design and Manufacturing	**35.71%**	5
Programmable Controllers	**28.57%**	4

#	Information Technology	Date
1	Programmer, Analyst, Technician	8/26/2015 9:28 AM
2	Technology Coordinator	8/24/2015 11:27 AM
3	Programming and Data Base Management	8/20/2015 10:46 AM
4	Software Engineer - IT Technician	8/20/2015 7:48 AM
5	IT Tech HDW/SFTware Specialist, Specialist LAN Support, Data Processing Support	8/20/2015 6:21 AM
6	Director, manager, tech I,tech II, DB admin	8/19/2015 7:22 PM
7	Chief Information Officer	8/19/2015 7:22 PM
8	IT Coordinator, Network Administrator, Field Technician	8/19/2015 3:40 PM
9	Administrator	8/19/2015 3:37 PM
10	Tech Assistant, Network Administrator	8/19/2015 3:25 PM
11	Help Desk Technician, Systems Administrator	8/19/2015 3:22 PM
12	Network Admin, Programmer	8/19/2015 3:14 PM
13	IT Administrator	8/19/2015 3:00 PM
#	**Sensors and Instrumentation**	Date
1	Help Desk Technician, Systems Administrator	8/19/2015 3:22 PM
2	Service men, Electrical Designers/Drafters, Engineers	8/19/2015 3:14 PM
3	Field Service Tech	8/19/2015 3:00 PM
#	**Computer Assisted Design and Manufacturing**	Date
1	Computer Numberical Control Programming	8/20/2015 10:46 AM
2	CNC Programmers	8/19/2015 4:43 PM
3	Tinkering Studio	8/19/2015 3:37 PM
4	Engineer, Drafter, Welder, Fitter	8/19/2015 3:14 PM
5	Controls Shop Tech	8/19/2015 3:00 PM
#	**Programmable Controllers**	Date
1	CNC Computer Controllers	8/20/2015 10:46 AM
2	Help Desk Technician, Systems Administrator	8/19/2015 3:22 PM
3	PLC Programmer, PLC technician	8/19/2015 3:14 PM
4	Field Integration Tech	8/19/2015 3:00 PM

Q8 Do you expect to hire employees in any of these areas in the next:

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1
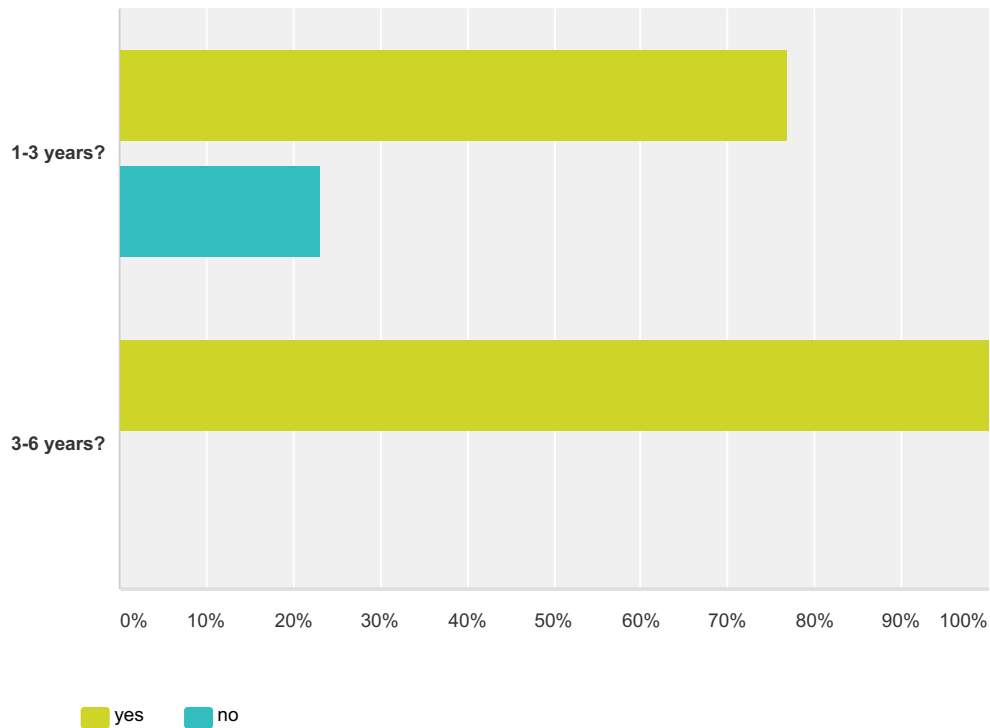
yes   no

	yes	no	Total
1-3 years?	**76.92%** 10	**23.08%** 3	13
3-6 years?	**100.00%** 10	**0.00%** 0	10

#	If yes, please list the position title(s) and number of anticipated openings.	Date
1	we have 2-3 technical positions a year. 1-2 programming positions per year 1-2 analyst per year	8/26/2015 9:28 AM
2	Technology Assistant	8/24/2015 11:27 AM
3	CNC Programmers - 3	8/20/2015 10:46 AM
4	Software Engineers - 2 future openings.	8/20/2015 7:48 AM
5	Techs and dbadmin	8/19/2015 7:22 PM
6	Information Technology Assistant	8/19/2015 7:22 PM
7	CNC Programmer 2 in next 1-3 years 2 in next 3-6 years	8/19/2015 4:43 PM
8	At least two openings as Field Technician	8/19/2015 3:40 PM
9	We already have staff in these positions.	8/19/2015 3:37 PM
10	Tech Assistant (1-2) over the next 3-5 years	8/19/2015 3:25 PM
11	Help Desk Technician - on going Systems Administrator - on going	8/19/2015 3:22 PM
12	Welders - 20 Service Men - 4 Engineer - 6 Drafter - 6 PLC Programmer - 4 Fitter - 6	8/19/2015 3:14 PM

| 13 | Field Technicians come and go however as our company grows I can see us hiring 2-4 more technicians in that time frame. | 8/19/2015 3:00 PM |

Field Technicians come and go however as our company grows I can see us hiring 2-4 more technicians in that time frame.	8/19/2015 3:00 PM

Q9 Which of the following will be most important to your company's future success?

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1
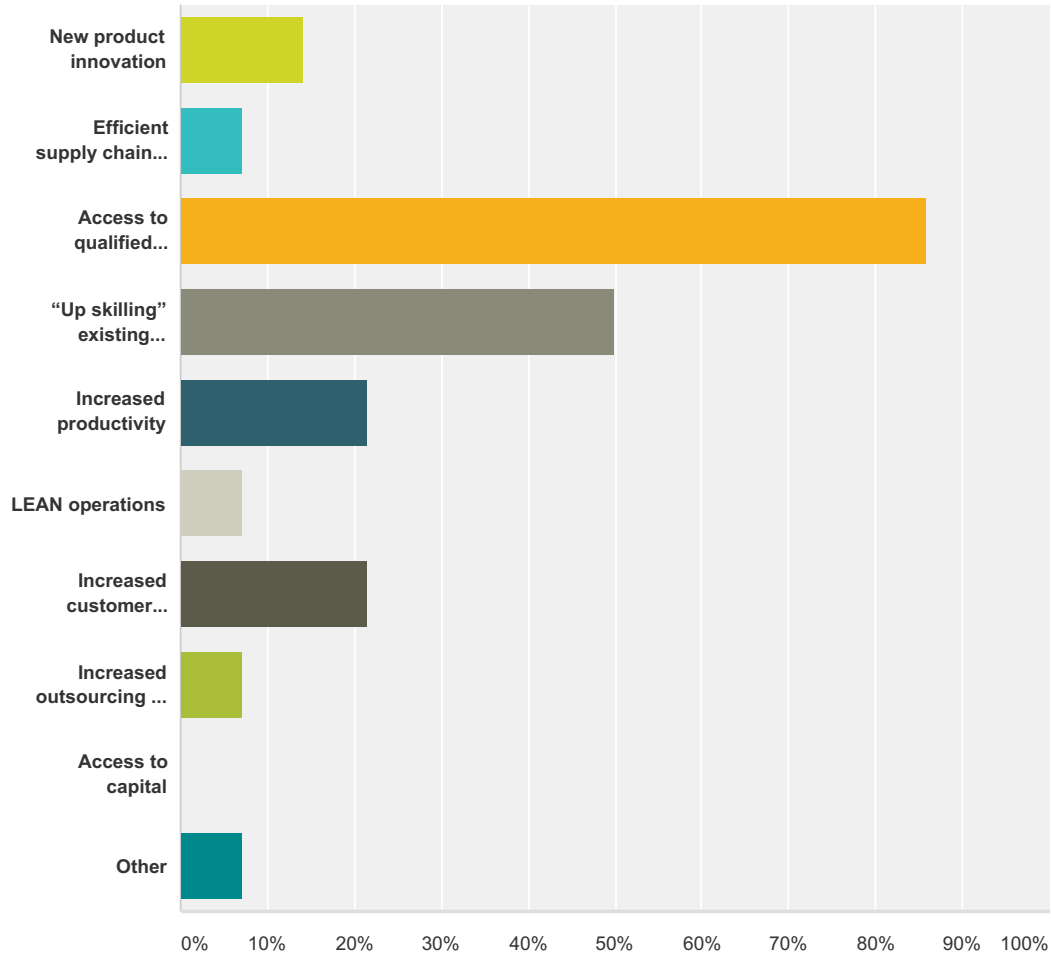
Answer Choices	Responses	
New product innovation	**14.29%**	2
Efficient supply chain integration/management	**7.14%**	1
Access to qualified applicants/employees	**85.71%**	12
"Up skilling" existing workforce	**50.00%**	7
Increased productivity	**21.43%**	3
LEAN operations	**7.14%**	1
Increased customer service orientation	**21.43%**	3
Increased outsourcing of select functions and/or operations	**7.14%**	1
Access to capital	**0.00%**	0
Other	**7.14%**	1

Total Respondents: 14

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	-	8/20/2015 7:52 AM

Q10 Has your company experienced difficulty due to local workforce shortages or employee skill deficiencies in any of the following areas?

Answered: 11   Skipped: 4
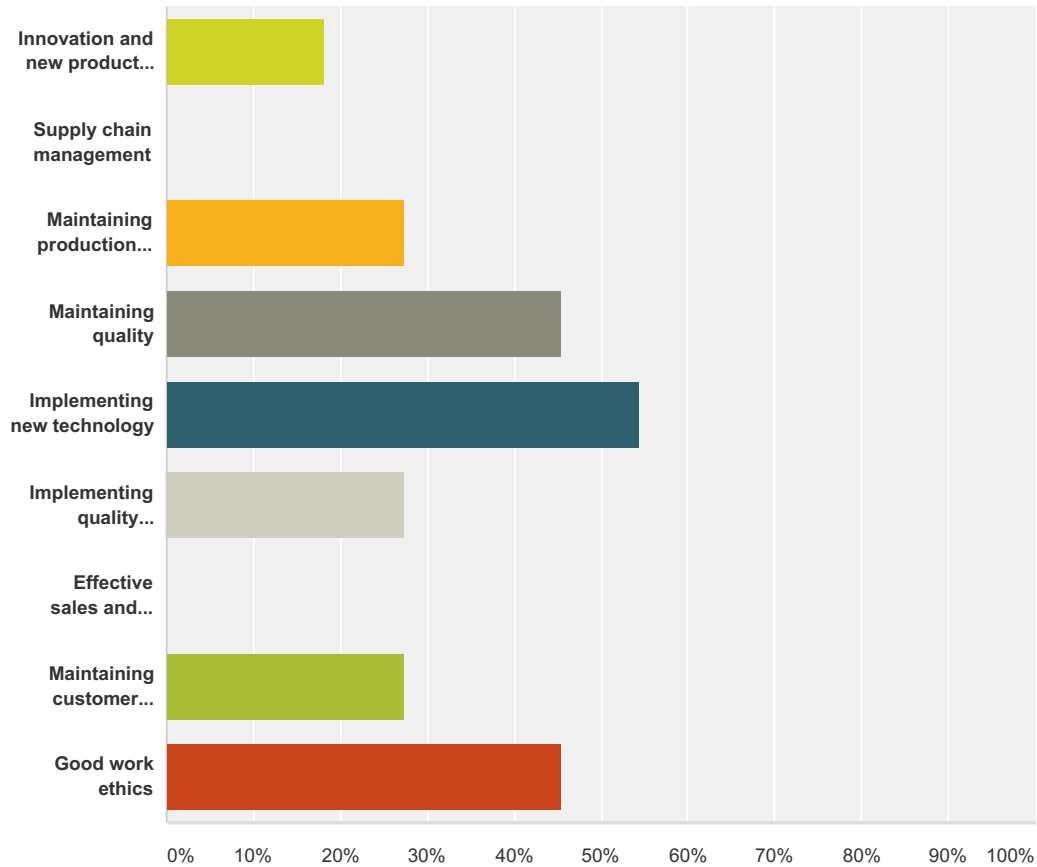
Answer Choices	Responses	
Innovation and new product development	**18.18%**	2
Supply chain management	**0.00%**	0
Maintaining production levels	**27.27%**	3
Maintaining quality	**45.45%**	5
Implementing new technology	**54.55%**	6
Implementing quality improvement	**27.27%**	3
Effective sales and marketing	**0.00%**	0
Maintaining customer service satisfaction	**27.27%**	3
Good work ethics	**45.45%**	5
Total Respondents: 11		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	-	8/20/2015 7:52 AM
2	Lack of knowledgable applicants	8/19/2015 7:24 PM

Q11 Which methods do you currently use to mitigate existing skill gaps?

Answered: 14   Skipped: 1
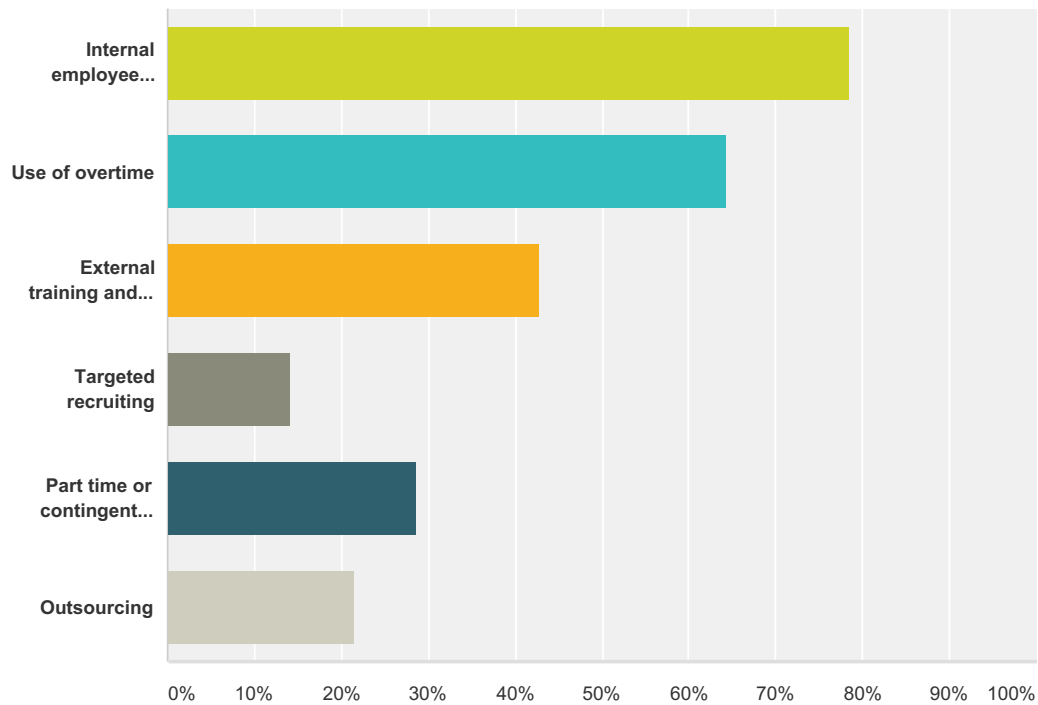
Answer Choices	Responses	
Internal employee training and development programs	**78.57%**	11
Use of overtime	**64.29%**	9
External training and certification programs	**42.86%**	6
Targeted recruiting	**14.29%**	2
Part time or contingent labor (staffing agencies, etc.)	**28.57%**	4
Outsourcing	**21.43%**	3
Total Respondents: 14		

Event Highlights from Planning Grant

Event	Date	Outcomes
Manufacturing Industry Sector Partnership Meeting	Quarterly meetings	NPC is a founding member of the Greater Hot Springs Manufacturing Sector Partnership. This meeting provided an opportunity to share information with all of the regions manufacturing representatives about how the ITC will benefit them.
Entrepreneurship Committee Meeting	Quarterly meetings	Hosted by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, NPC representatives were invited to present information about the Innovative Technologies Center and how it will benefit the entire community. Specifically discussed was how start-up companies and K-12 partners could utilize this ITC for all sorts of activities.
Aerospace Industry Sector Partnership Meeting	Quarterly meetings	Quarterly event co-sponsored by NPC and the Hot Springs Metro Partnership, this meeting provided an opportunity to share information with all of the regions manufacturing representatives about how the ITC will benefit them.
Young Manufacturers Academy	August 2015	Five local manufacturing companies provided industry tours for 25 YMA students. Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions Group hosted a LEAN event for students. Engaged various speakers from aerospace and manufacturing companies. Capstone event included student groups presenting what they learned during the week to their parents.
Conference – Developing a Center for Innovation on Campus	September 2015	Four NPC employees attended this conference in anticipation of launching the Innovative Technologies Center. This three-day event helped to establish a strategic vision, identify partners, scan the economic market, establish marketing priorities, develop partnership agreements, determine student involvement,
RoboUniverse Conference	December 2015	The RoboUniverse conference covered the breadth of robotic technologies emerging in the field from collaborative industrial robots to agricultural robots, artificial intelligence research, robotic hardware advances, UAVs and Human machine interface issues. The conference provided project staff with a personal glimpse into the most innovative areas of robotics development.
Innovative Technologies – Launch and Learn Event	December 2015	Sponsored by NPC, 25 business and industry partners and five K-12 partners attended this event to learn more about the Innovative Technologies Center initiative and how this will benefit them. Roundtable discussions provided opportunity to discuss what types of activities and training would be needed in the ITC by education and industry.
Workforce Development Institute Conference – Innovation in Workforce	January 2016	Event hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges provided information on best practices in Innovation from colleges around the United States. Connections with peers from other Innovation Centers and vendors that could provide training, supplies, and services to the Innovative Technologies Center.
Arkansas Aerospace & Defense	March	This event allowed NPC representatives to network with HAAS representatives and aerospace partners to discuss ITC initiatives,

Alliance Annual Summit	2016	partner participation, potential equipment needs, and student opportunities for internships and apprenticeships.
Code.Connect.Innovate. Conference	April 2016	ITC Sponsored event that brought together higher education faculty and staff from both two year and four year institutions. Speakers from industry, suppliers, and others provided two days of breakout sessions and panel discussions.
ABB Robotics Open House	May 2016	ABB automation is a major player in industrial automation and their robotics open house brought together many specialty companies in robotic application, accessories, and integration. Project staff benefited from immersion in the various manufacturing technologies which make robotics work in a modern manufacturing plant. Valuable connections were made with various companies including a robotic integrator in Arkansas which will prove helpful during the implementation grant.
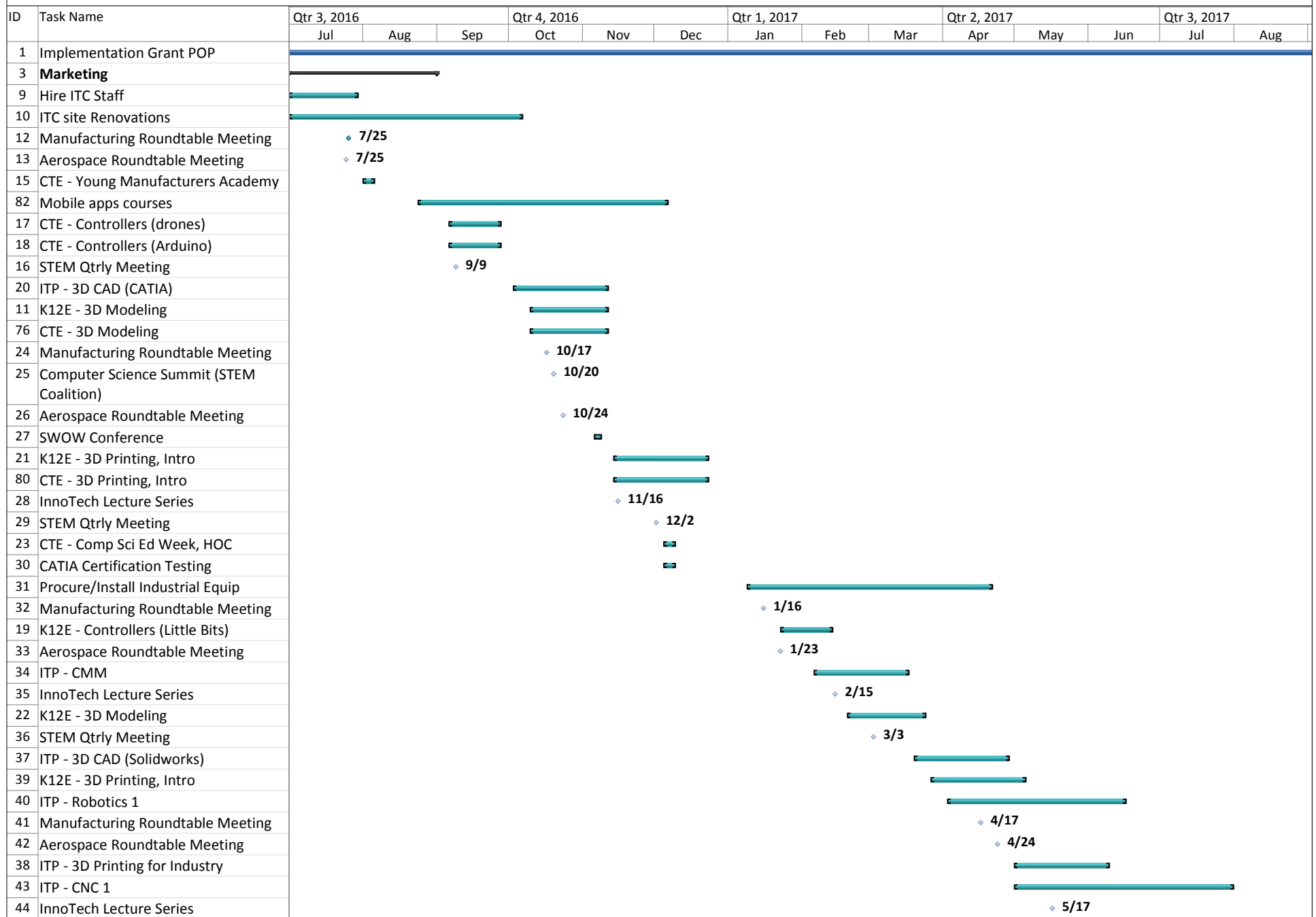
Innovative Technologies Center

ID	Task Name	Qtr 3, 2016			Qtr 4, 2016			Qtr 1, 2017			Qtr 2, 2017			Qtr 3, 2017	
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
1	Implementation Grant POP														
3	**Marketing**														
9	Hire ITC Staff														
10	ITC site Renovations														
12	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting	7/25													
13	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting	7/25													
15	CTE - Young Manufacturers Academy														
82	Mobile apps courses														
17	CTE - Controllers (drones)														
18	CTE - Controllers (Arduino)														
16	STEM Qtrly Meeting			9/9											
20	ITP - 3D CAD (CATIA)														
11	K12E - 3D Modeling														
76	CTE - 3D Modeling														
24	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting				10/17										
25	Computer Science Summit (STEM Coalition)				10/20										
26	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting				10/24										
27	SWOW Conference														
21	K12E - 3D Printing, Intro														
80	CTE - 3D Printing, Intro														
28	InnoTech Lecture Series					11/16									
29	STEM Qtrly Meeting						12/2								
23	CTE - Comp Sci Ed Week, HOC														
30	CATIA Certification Testing														
31	Procure/Install Industrial Equip														
32	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting							1/16							
19	K12E - Controllers (Little Bits)														
33	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting							1/23							
34	ITP - CMM														
35	InnoTech Lecture Series								2/15						
22	K12E - 3D Modeling														
36	STEM Qtrly Meeting									3/3					
37	ITP - 3D CAD (Solidworks)														
39	K12E - 3D Printing, Intro														
40	ITP - Robotics 1														
41	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting										4/17				
42	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting										4/24				
38	ITP - 3D Printing for Industry														
43	ITP - CNC 1														
44	InnoTech Lecture Series											5/17			

ID	Task Name														
			Qtr 3, 2017			Qtr 4, 2017			Qtr 1, 2018			Qtr 2, 2018			Qtr 3, 2018
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
45	LEAN (AMS)														
46	STEM Qtrly Meeting		6/2												
47	CATIA Certification Testing														
48	ITP - PLC 2														
49	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting			7/17											
50	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting			7/24											
51	InnoTech Lecture Series				8/16										
53	ITP - CNC 2														
14	CTE - Robotics														
52	STEM Qtrly Meeting					9/8									
54	Code Connect Innovate Conference (ITC)														
55	ITP - 3D CAD (CATIA)														
56	ITP - Robotics 2														
77	CTE - 3D Modeling														
57	Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting						10/16								
58	Aerospace Roundtable Meeting						10/23								
81	CTE - 3D Printing, Intro														
78	K12E - 3D Printing, Intro														
59	InnoTech Lecture Series							11/15							
60	CATIA Certification Testing														
61	STEM Qtrly Meeting								12/8						
62	ITP - Instrumentation														
63	ITP - CNC 3														
65	ITP - CMM														
66	InnoTech Lecture Series										2/14				
64	STEM Qtrly Meeting											3/2			
67	ITP - 3D CAD (Solidworks)														
79	K12E - 3D Printing, Intro														
68	ITP - 3D Printing for Industry														
72	Industrial Technology (INDT) AAS proposal														
73	Aerospace (AFAB) AAS proposal														
74	3D printing CP proposal														
75	Implementation Grant Final Report														
69	InnoTech Lecture Series													5/16	
70	CATIA Certification Testing														
71	STEM Qtrly Meeting														6/8
2	Continuation Grant POP														

West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District, Inc.

Dwayne Pratt
Executive Director

May 26, 2016

Dr. Brett Powell, Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, STE 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dr. Brett Powell:

West Central Arkansas Planning & Development District and the West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Programmable Controllers

Regional and local workforce surveys have shown that advanced manufacturing is a growing industry sector that requires highly-skilled workers now and in the future. We support National Park College's efforts to ensure that current and future workers have the opportunity to learn the technical skills needed to be successful in the region's manufacturing and aerospace companies.

NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will allow K-12 and college students to interface with business and industry in a high-tech environment that is currently not available in our region.

Interacting with students in this environment will allow companies an opportunity to showcase the exciting and lucrative careers and strengthen relationships between education and industry in our region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Pratt
Executive Director

1000 Central Avenue
PO Box 6409
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Phone: (501) 525-7577
TDD: 1-800-285-1131
FAX: (501) 525-7677

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HOT SPRINGS

CHAMBER
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Taking Care of Business

May 26, 2016

Dr. Brett Powell:

The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce supports National Park College's *application* for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

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Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Jim Fram
President & CEO
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce

659 Ouachita Ave. • Hot Springs, AR 71901 • 501.321.1700
www.hotspringschamber.com

STATE OF ARKANSAS

May 31, 2016

Dr. Brett Powell
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dr. Brett Powell:

The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:
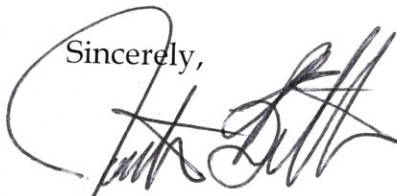
1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Programmable Controllers

Advanced manufacturing is a growing industry sector that requires highly-skilled workers now and in the future. We support National Park College's efforts to ensure that current and future workers have the opportunity to learn the technical skills needed to be successful.

ACTI has recently partnered with National Park College to develop programming to train people with disabilities as certified production technicians. We anticipate with the development of the Innovative Technologies Center, that the possibilities for additional partnerships and collaboration will grow. This will positively impact the regional workforce, since ACTI serves clients from throughout the region and the entire state.

Business and industry requires employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bibb
Director
Arkansas Career Training Institute
105 Reserve Street
Hot Springs, AR 71902

May 27, 2016

Dr. Brett Powell:

The Hot Springs School District supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Implementation Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing (3-D Printing and CNC Machining)
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Automation (Programmable Controllers and Robotics)

Hot Springs School District recognizes the needs for a workforce skilled in these areas and looks forward to the opportunity to introduce students to these types of career fields.

NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will allow Hot Springs School District to interface with local companies, suppliers, and community members in a high-tech educational environment that is currently not available in our region. Additionally, programs such as NPC's STEM Camp, Young Manufacturers Academy, and Manufacturing Day help raise awareness of advanced technology careers in the manufacturing industry and develop relationships with industry in our region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Mike Hernandez, Ed.D.
Superintendent

August 26, 2015

Brett Powell, EdD
Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dr. Powell:

University of Arkansas at Little Rock supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Center of Excellence in Innovative Technologies.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Information Technology/Coding
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Programmable Controllers

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Center of Excellence in Innovative Technologies will support core needs of the local industry. For these reasons, I support this plan of action as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs in Hot Springs, Garland County, and the surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Zulma Toro, PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

ZRT/sac

Dr. Brett Powell:

Airtech Supply, Inc. supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Programmable Controllers

Our company has a need for employees skilled in Computer Programming and CMM Inspection, which are occupations directly related to Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing.

NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will allow Airtech Supply, Inc. to interface with other companies, students, suppliers, and community members in an environment that is currently not available in our region.

Interacting with students in this environment will allow companies an opportunity to showcase the exciting and lucrative careers and strengthens relationships between education and industry in our region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Mark Sorrell
Director of Quality & Supply Chain
Airtech Supply, Inc.
3058 Highway 290
Hot Springs, AR. 71913
Ph: (501) 525-7707 X102

May 26, 2016

Attn: Brett Powell

Ref: National Park College – Innovative Technology Center

Dear Mr. Powell,

We at CMT Inc. strongly support National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas: 1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing, 2) Sensors and Instrumentation, 3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing, 4) Programmable Controllers

CMT Inc. and other aerospace related businesses in our area have a need for employees skilled in the subjects provided by this program. We need to be able to hire people who have training in these areas so we can compete globally and grow our business. More specifically, we utilize the following equipment and processes at CMT in our aerospace parts production business:

CAD / CAM – Using MasterCam, Catia, and Verisurf software.
CNC Machines – These machines contain a large number of sensors, PLC's, CPU's, Servos, and Linear Scales.
Heat Treating, Bonding Ovens, Freezers, and Autoclaves – These ovens and freezers are all controlled with PLC and HMI software systems and perform calibrated data collection of process parameters.
Inkjet Part Marking System – This system contains PLC controls and PC based data input.

Virtually every part we make is impacted by machinery or systems that require maintenance and operation related to the core technologies covered by this NPC program. NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will allow CMT Inc.to interface with other companies, students, suppliers, and community members in an environment that is currently not available in our region. Interacting with students in this environment will allow companies an opportunity to showcase the exciting and lucrative careers and strengthens relationships between education and industry in our region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central

Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.
Sincerely,

Tom Butler
President
Craft Manufacturing and Tooling, Inc

BERRY
P L A S T I C S

106 Delta Place

Hot Springs, AR 71913

TEL (501) 760-3000

May 26, 2016

Dr. Brett Powell:

Berry Plastics, Hot Springs, supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing　　　3) Computer Aided Design & Manufacturing
2) Sensors and Instrumentation　　　　　　　　　4) Programmable Controllers

Our company has a need for employees skilled in Mechanics/Maintenance, Electronics (including PLCs), and other manufacturing technology, which are occupations directly related to each of the advanced technology areas above. We are frequently forced to recruit outside the state to fill technical roles.

NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will assist Berry Plastics in interfacing with other companies, students, suppliers, and community members in an environment that is currently not available in our region. Interacting with students in this environment will allow Berry an opportunity to showcase our exciting and lucrative careers and strengthens relationships between education and industry in our region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it addresses relevant and urgent workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Laura Brody
Human Resources Manager

Dr. Brett Powell:

Haas Factory Outlet, A Division of Phillips Corporation supports National Park College's application for a Regional Workforce Implementation Grant to develop its Innovative Technologies Center.

The center would provide the region with highly skilled workers in four broad advanced technology areas:

1) Additive and Subtractive Manufacturing (3-D Printing and CNC Machining)
2) Sensors and Instrumentation
3) Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing
4) Automation (Programmable Controllers and Robotics)

Haas Factory Outlet sales and services CNC Machine Tools from Haas Automation, America's largest CNC Machine Tool manufacturer. With customers like Air Tech Supply, Baxley Equipment, Berry Plastics, Bishop Aviation, CMT, Freedom Works Manufacturing, Hollier Metal Works, Jaeco Orthopedic, Triumph Airborne Structures, and Triumph Fabricators, we recognize the importance of a highly and technically skilled workforce in the Hot Springs area. We see firsthand the demand our customers have for these skilled careers and support the proposed Innovative Technologies Center.

NPC's Innovative Technologies Center will allow students to learn the skills needed on the equipment used in industry. It will also allow them to interface with local companies, suppliers, and community members in a high-tech educational environment that is currently not available in the West Central region.

Business and industry require employees equipped with 21st century technology skills. This Innovative Technologies Center will support core needs of business and industry in the West Central Arkansas region. For these reasons, I support this plan as it is both timely and relevant to the local workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Michael A Garner
VP of Sales Phillips Corporation

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Colfax, NC 27235

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+1 888 878 0162
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	GY1	GY2	Line Total
A. Program Leadership Support Costs	158,450	158,450	316,900
Personnel	154,450	154,450	308,900
Salary	117,000	117,000	
Fringe (35%)	37,450	37,450	
Travel	4,000	4,000	8,000
Other	-	-	-
B. Other Direct Costs	551,960	53,160	605,120
1. Equipment	406,300	-	406,300
Cap Equip - Fabrication	171,300	-	171,300
Cap Equip - Controls & Automation	235,000	-	235,000
2. Materials and Supplies	82,000	7,000	89,000
furniture	17,000	-	17,000
electronics gear	3,000	1,000	4,000
Computers & Networking	37,500	-	37,500
Software	8,000	-	8,000
Supplies	14,000	6,000	20,000
Curriculum	2,500	-	
3. Publication costs/documentation/dissemi	3,000	3,000	6,000
Marketing	3,000	3,000	
4. Consultant Services	2,000	2,000	4,000
5. Other	58,660	41,160	99,820
NonRecuring - Facilities renovations	17,500	-	
Recuring	41,160	41,160	
C. Total Direct Costs	710,410	211,610	922,020
D. Cost Sharing			50,000
Total Implementation Grant Budget			972,020