



**To:** TAACCCT Grant Team  
**From:** KW2  
**Date:** 6/27/14  
**Re:** Talking Points

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**Wisconsin Technical Colleges:**

**We need advanced manufacturing students**

Discussion points:

- *Wisconsin manufacturing is on the rebound*, adding 2,300 jobs in March alone this year. Manufacturers say they could grow faster if they had the skilled workers they need in areas of advanced manufacturing.
- *Wisconsin's technical colleges have responded*. Colleges have made investments to improve and accelerate training to fill the "skills gap," the colleges – with the support of a U.S. Department of Labor grant and outreach assistance from Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – have launched *Advance Wisconsin – Manufacturing* to improve training and help more than 2,700 individuals qualify for jobs in machine tool, computer numerical control (CNC), welding and industrial maintenance.
- *The future is solid for those in specialized manufacturing careers*. Wisconsin's manufacturing exports are rising, creating demands for workers with advanced manufacturing skills. In addition, the state's skilled manufacturing workers are aging and retiring from jobs with annual median salaries ranging from \$36,500 for welders to \$47,400 for industrial mechanics. (PLEASE INSERT YOUR AREA MEDIAN WAGES IF YOU HAVE THEM)
- *The program is seeking students this fall*. For students seeking careers in advanced manufacturing, contact LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE to learn about course offerings and financial assistance. The course training can be obtained in less than a year for jobs Wisconsin manufacturers need to compete in the world economy.
- Backed by a \$14.9 million Trade Adjustment Assistance for Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant awarded in 2012 from the U.S. Department of Labor, Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges are expanding and enhancing their programs to close the skills gap in advanced manufacturing and help displaced workers return to work. Veterans receive priority enrollment.
- For local releases, customize a bullet point highlighting your programs (i.e., eliminated waiting lists, adding nationally recognized credentials, creating short-term training boot camps, employer quote, etc.)