

Pennsylvania College of Technology – Williamsport, PA

Award Amount: \$7,996,530

Project Name: MIDAS – Modular, Industry-Driven Apprenticeship Strategies

Projected Apprentices to Be Served: 3,231

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Private Sector Partners include PMMI (Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute), SPE Foundation (Plastics), NIIMBL (National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals), and LIFT (Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow).

Type(s) of Apprenticeship Program Proposed: Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP), Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Pre-Apprenticeship

The MIDAS (Modular, Industry-Driven Apprenticeship Strategies) project is working to reinvent apprenticeship models to meet employer demand for advanced manufacturing occupations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and nationwide. Specifically, the project aims to reconfigure existing structures to incorporate smaller core competency modules that are flexible, customizable and stackable, thus meeting employer needs for multiple occupations. These modules are designed to include seamless options for registered programs and academic credit for prior learning. MIDAS is developing these highly customizable modules using a shared tuition model that allows multiple companies to share in the cost of a class, thereby encouraging companies to increase their apprentice enrollment.

The project is also retrofitting and expanding existing RAPs in Mechatronics, Computer Numerical Control (CNC), and Industrial Manufacturing, as well as establishing new RAPs in specialty advanced manufacturing industries, such as Plastics Process Technician, Biological Technician, and Light Metals Machinists and Welders. In addition, MIDAS is developing complementary IRAPs that are applicable across advanced manufacturing. These programs, which can be completed in less than one year and stacked onto and alongside of the RAPs, are designed to stand alone for apprentices who are not in a registered program. In addition, MIDAS is creating IRAP modules for critical business skills that are needed in advanced manufacturing occupations, such as project management, frontline supervisor, lean/six sigma, and business skills, including communication and team building.

To scale the project nationally, MIDAS will leverage the networks of its four national industry association partners to promote and enroll employers across the country.

The IHE consortium consists of the Pennsylvania College of Technology (lead) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.