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## **AWT Foundation Holds Ground-Breaking Ceremony**

**Mentor, OH (August 23, 2021)** –On Monday, August 23, 2021, The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Foundation held a ground-breaking ceremony for its new “AWT Transformation Center”.

The AWT Transformation Training Center is designed to scale up Northeast Ohio’s collective skilled manufacturing labor force. Construction has officially begun on the Transformation Training Center in Mentor,

The approximately 12,500-square-foot training center, be located at 8980 Tyler Blvd. (in front of Fredon Corporation), will be operated by the non-profit Alliance for Working Together to provide training for skilled manufacturing jobs.. The new training center is aptly located on Tyler Blvd. within the sixth largest manufacturing hub in the state of Ohio.

When completed, the transformation center will STEM-to-career programming (provide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for K-12 students, pre-apprenticeships for high school juniors and seniors, and traditional 4-year apprenticeships for employed, unemployed or incumbent workers.

“We are excited to continue our collaboration with AWT to ensure we are helping train Ohio’s future workforce,” explained Mentor Schools’ Career Technical Education Coordinator and Director of Lake Shore Compact (one of Northeast Ohio’s career-tech consortiums), Dr. Joseph Glavan. “Once constructed, the AWT Training Center will be home to our certified Advanced Manufacturing program. Our students will earn their machinist pre-apprenticeship credential in our program and, if desired, can seamlessly continue on after graduation with the AWT apprenticeship program.

The AWT Training Center’s target finish date is early in 2022. In addition to the educational programming, the AWT Training Center will act as a central hub for AWT Foundation operations and a place where AWT members can come together to share ideas, best practices, and promote rewarding manufacturing careers.

The AWT Transformation Training Center construction is made possible by the generous donations of Spence Technologies, Habco Tool & Development, Universal Metal Products, Matrix, Roll-Kraft, STERIS, Euclid Heat Treating, Ordnance Technology Service, Fredon Corporation, The State of Ohio, KeyBank Foundation, Lincoln Electric Foundation, Parker Hannifin Foundation, The Lozick Family Foundation, and Roger & Judy Sustar Family. “The AWT Training Center is a great example of what is possible when government, education, and business collaborate effectively.”, said Alyson Scott, President of the Fredon Corporation and President of the AWT Board of Directors.

The AWT Ground-Breaking Ceremony hosted various notable guests including manufacturing company CEOs, educational leaders, and political leaders. Presenting speakers included Roger Sustar, CEO of Fredon Corporation/founder AWT Foundation, Dr. Morris Beverage, President of Lakeland Community College, State Senator Jerry Cirino, State Representative Jamie Callender, State Representative Dan Troy, and Lake County Commissioner John Hamercheck . Representative Callender concluded his remarks by saying, “The one group that hasn’t been mentioned yet is our students, from Lake County and the Northeast Ohio region, that are going to have an opportunity to enter the field of manufacturing –what Northeast Ohio used to be known for”

If anyone has any questions or is interested in making a charitable donation to support the AWT Transformation Training Center, please contact Juliana Petti, AWT Foundation Executive Director, [Juliana@thinkmfg.com](mailto:Juliana@thinkmfg.com), or 440-462-1995.

### **About the AWT Foundation**

The Alliance for Working Together Foundation (AWT), a 501c3 nonprofit organization, is dedicated to promoting rewarding manufacturing careers. As a membership organization, we work together to introduce students to manufacturing and connect businesses to engage with their potential future workers. Based in Northeast Ohio, AWT and its members work toward the sustainability of manufacturing in our community.