



ADULT PROGRAMMING

2026

WE PROMOTE
REWARDING
CAREERS IN
MANUFACTURING.





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WHAT IS AWT?

The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) was started in 2002 as a small, informal group of manufacturers, who met to discuss topics of interest and best practices among local manufacturers. Finding skilled workers was quickly identified as one of the top challenges for our manufacturers. **Promoting rewarding careers in manufacturing became the core mission of the organization.** In 2012, the AWT Foundation became a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Since then, the AWT Foundation now has 500+ manufacturing companies, community organizations, and school members.

The AWT Foundation is hard at work addressing the workforce needs of today's manufacturers by strengthening and expanding the adult talent pipeline. As manufacturing continues to grow in Northeast Ohio, employers face a critical shortage of skilled workers to meet current demand and replace retiring baby boomers. AWT works closely with manufacturers, our members, and community organizations to promote manufacturing as a stable, rewarding career path for adults seeking new opportunities, career advancement, or re-entry into the workforce.

With the support of strategic partners, the AWT Foundation delivers impactful adult workforce programs that connect individuals directly to in-demand manufacturing careers. Programs include AWT WorkAdvance, registered apprenticeships, and targeted upskilling classes such as Blueprint Reading, Intro to Milling, Intro to Turning, and GD&T. These programs provide hands-on instruction and clear pathways to employment and advancement within local manufacturing companies.

In addition, AWT plays a key role in removing barriers to employment by supporting access to transportation for participants and offering Department of Labor and Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) recognized pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. Through these efforts, AWT helps employers build a stronger workforce while empowering adults with the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in modern manufacturing careers.

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PROGRAMS

WORKADVANCE

MANUFACTURING A PATH TO SUCCESS

The AWT WorkAdvance program aims to introduce job seekers to entry-level manufacturing positions through a one-week training program at our facility. Topics in the manufacturing sector are covered, including blueprint reading, inspection and measurement, shop math, and an introduction to manual and CNC machines. We cover resume and interview prep, financial literacy, and workplace etiquette.

At the conclusion of the program, participants are connected with manufacturers for interviews.

Learn more at AWTWorkAdvance.com





PROGRAMS TRAINING SESSIONS

INDUSTRY-DRIVEN AND EXPERT-LED

The AWT Foundation is committed to strengthening the manufacturing workforce by offering specialized training sessions designed to meet industry needs. Each month, we host a training session focused on a different manufacturing skill set identified by members.

In partnership with leading industry experts, we provide hands-on training to enhance the skills and capabilities of our manufacturing community.

Learn more about our employer training sessions and see what's currently being offered at www.thinkmfg.com/events.



**“THE BLUEPRINT READING CLASS HELPED ME GET
FURTHER IN MY CAREER.”**



PROGRAMS

APPRENTICESHIPS

HANDS-ON TRAINING AND REAL-WORLD SKILLS

The AWT Apprenticeship Program is a four-year* registered training initiative designed to develop highly skilled journeymen machinists in Northeast Ohio. The program is recognized by the Department of Labor and ApprenticeOhio and offers pathways in Tool & Die Making, Mold Making, Precision Machining, Tool Programming/Numerical Control, and Quality/Inspection.

Key Benefits for Employers



Address Skill Gaps

Develop a pipeline of skilled workers.



Improve Retention

Investing in employees leads to higher motivation and loyalty.



Cost-Effective Training

Tuition is \$2,800 per year per employee, with \$2,000 eligible to be reimbursed through TechCred.



How the Program Works:

- Blended Learning Approach
 - Apprentices complete a combination of online coursework, hands-on, and in-person training.
- On-the-Job Training (8,000 hours for four-years or 4,000 for two).

**The Quality/Inspector Apprenticeship is a two-year program.*



PROGRAMS **APPRENTICESHIPS**

LEARN MORE AT THINKMFG.COM/APPRENTICESHIPS

Machining Apprenticeships

Year 1

- Shop Safety
- Blueprint Reading
- Shop Math
- Machining Fundamentals

Year 2

- Advanced Shop Math
- Advanced Blueprint Reading
- Manual Milling
- Manual Turning

Year 3

- SolidWorks
- GibbsCAM
- Introduction to CNC Machining

Year 4

- CNC Setup
- CNC Programming
- CNC Operation

Quality / Inspection Apprenticeships

Year 1

- Safety & Basics
- Materials & Tools
- Introductory Blueprint Reading
- GD&T Fundamentals
- Comparator

Year 2

- Advanced Blueprint Reading
- GD&T Applications
- CMM Inspection
- Calibration & Documentation
- Quality Auditing
- Machining & Laser Cutting



AWT TRANSFORMATION TRAINING CENTER

A HUB FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The AWT Northeast Ohio Transformation Training Center is a world-class hub for workforce development, industry, and manufacturing training. Since opening in October 2022, this facility has served the region as a center for education and industry sector collaboration. The AWT Transformation Training Center addresses the gap in K-12 and adult training for students and new and incumbent workers. This center provides the technically trained workforce that our manufacturing community needs.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

WORKING TOGETHER

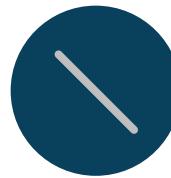
At AWT, we believe in the power of collaboration to strengthen the manufacturing workforce. Recently, we've partnered with local businesses and educational institutions to expand hands-on training opportunities through our apprenticeship and training programs. By working together, we're equipping individuals with the skills needed to thrive in today's advanced manufacturing industry.

No matter your company's size or training goals, AWT can develop a customized training pathway that meets your needs. From foundational skills to advanced technical training, we provide workforce development solutions that create lasting career opportunities.



ADULT TRAINING

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2025



TRAINING FOCUS

POWERED BY PARTNERSHIPS.

We partner with organizations, and industry leaders to deliver hands-on training, STEM programs, and manufacturing-focused initiatives, empowering both the current and future workforce.

IMPACT STARTS HERE.

Over 75% of our outreach events were held at the AWT Training Center, allowing adults to have hands-on training with the most up-to-date equipment.

- AWT WorkAdvance
- Apprenticeship Training
- GibbsCAM
- GD&T
- Blueprint Reading
- Machine Set-up
- SolidWorks
- CNC Operation

PROMOTING REWARDING CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING



227
PROGRAMS

338+
COMPANIES
ENGAGED

6,319
PARTICIPANTS





LET'S PARTNER!



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