



Expanding the Pipeline of Advanced Manufacturing Technicians in West Virginia

We are

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC), located in Martinsburg, West Virginia, is an **open access public institution** that offers degrees and certificates for transfer and technical education.

We are the only institution of higher education in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Goal

The goal of our project is to increase the number of students completing degrees or certificates in our Advanced Manufacturing Technician programs.

Objectives

Educational enhancements and objectives will include:

- (1) develop a Math JumpStart program for Advanced Manufacturing pathways;
- (2) bolster laboratory hands-on learning through purchases of key equipment and supplies;
- (3) implement a comprehensive advising and student services strategy for students in Advanced Manufacturing pathways; and
- (4) develop hybrid Advanced Manufacturing courses through curriculum modifications and alignment with laboratory technician jobs with employer partners.

Collaboration:

Of the companies BRCTC works with, Procter and Gamble (P&G) deserves special mention. Specifically, P&G worked with BRCTC to develop a customized certification program. Students in the program take courses in industrial automation technology and meet with P&G leaders. Those who earn the certification are eligible to apply for job openings and

can continue to take courses toward a degree with tuition reimbursement benefits upon employment.

The First Year

Through this program BRCTC will outfit a 1,000 square foot classroom at the Pines Opportunity Center as a lab space for teaching Advanced Manufacturing. NSF ATE funds will be used to purchase the necessary start-up equipment. The equipment needed will cost approximately \$120,000 and will enable students to complete the Advanced Manufacturing core.



We will also offer an Advanced Manufacturing JumpStart program for high school students. Despite the robust job outlook for manufacturing, there is no effective JumpStart program that tracks students into Advanced Manufacturing pathways. Using grant funds, we will create an Advanced Manufacturing JumpStart program that will be offered at Pines in Morgan County. We will also leverage our existing facilities at the Martinsburg home campus to offer a JumpStart program at Berkeley High School.

Contact Information

Principal Investigator: Adam Bridendolph

Email: ABRIDEND@blueridgectc.edu

Co-Principal Investigator: Laura Busey

Email: lbusey@blueridgectc.edu

Co-Principal Investigator: Patricia Irwin

Email: pirwin@blueridgectc.edu
