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WORKFORCE ALLIANCE TO RECEIVE GRANT FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FROM BOEING

National Fund for Workforce Solutions announces that Wichita and two additional communities have been selected as grantees for the three-year on-the-job training program to bolster manufacturing workforce.

WICHITA, KS (July 5, 2018) - The National Fund for Workforce Solutions announced Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas is one of three grantees to receive \$125,000 through the Preparation for Advanced Career Employment Systems (PACES) fund to address small and mid-sized suppliers' need for skilled workers in manufacturing. The grants, made possible by The Boeing Company, will build off of The National Fund's 2012-2014 Boeing On-The-Job (OJT) Project which identified the best practices of job training and career advancement in manufacturing. The training programs will help manufacturing companies fill vacancies while advancing current employees to higher skilled and higher paying positions. The Workforce Alliance was chosen from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions [network of more than 30 communities](#) to lead this innovative program,

"Unemployment in manufacturing is hitting record lows nationwide," said Fred Dedrick, CEO and President of The National Fund. "Employers are struggling to fill openings and workers want family-sustaining jobs with the opportunity to grow professionally. With Boeing's OJT Project, the National Fund can help their regional collaboratives work to assist both employers' needs for skilled staff and ensure that workers are given access to quality jobs.

"Newly trained job seekers are finding it difficult to gain employment with little job experience," says Keith Lawing, CEO of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas. "This grant will be used to help jump start their careers as they gain job experience using their new skill sets and provide an answer for employers needing to fill vacancies."

A total of five cities will be participating in the program to include Chicago, Philadelphia, and Wichita. Two additional cities will be selected in 2019. Each collaborative will be designing job training strategies tailored to their labor market, employer partner and unique needs.

About the Workforce Alliance:

The Workforce Alliance formed PACES in 2008 when invited to join the National Fund as a regional collaborative site grantee. The mission of PACES is to create a more accessible and flexible employment and training system to move unemployed and underemployed workers into high-demand and high-skill careers in both the aviation, healthcare and information technologies. Under the management of the WA, PACES has developed into a mature, employer led system, securing investments totaling more than \$3.5 million for the region, including over \$2.3 million in direct grant funds competitively awarded to since 2008. The Workforce Alliance participated in the 2012-2014 Boeing On-The-Job (OJT) Project.

Founding members and local funders of PACES include the United Way of the Plains and the City of Wichita. Cox Machine, GKN Aerospace, HM Dunn, TECT Aerospace and XLT Ovens have already expressed their commitment to participate in the project.

About National Fund for Workforce Solutions

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions is a national network promoting economic opportunity and prosperous communities through investment and innovation. Based in Washington D.C., the National Fund partners with philanthropy, employers, workers, public and private community organizations, and more than 30 regional collaboratives to invest in skills, improve systems, and generate good jobs. The National Fund supports civic and business leaders in promoting evidence-based practices and policies that build shared prosperity. Learn more about the National Fund and its local partners at www.NationalFund.org.

About The Boeing Company:

Through purposeful investments, employee engagement and thoughtful advocacy efforts, Boeing and its employees support innovative partnerships and programs that align with the company's strategic objectives, create value and help build better communities worldwide. Boeing's efforts are focused on improving access to globally competitive learning, contributing to workforce and skills development, and supporting our military and veteran communities.

Chicago-based Boeing is the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defense, space and security systems. A top U.S. exporter, the company supports airlines and U.S. and allied government customers in 150 countries.

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For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit www.workforce-ks.com.