

## AMP IT UP! Grant received to Increase Advanced Manufacturing Career Awareness at four Greater Lowell area high schools

MassDevelopment today announced 12 partnerships will receive [AMP it up!](#) matching grants for outreach and other innovative programs that will educate young people and adults about career options in advanced manufacturing. In the sixth year of the program, MassDevelopment will provide awards totaling \$99,975 to the 12 partnerships, consisting of regional employment and workforce investment boards, manufacturers, chambers of commerce and development councils, community colleges, vocational schools, and other organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

The lead organizations on these 12 partnerships are: The Central Massachusetts Center for Business and Enterprise Inc. (Whitinsville), Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board (Greenfield), Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board (Lowell), Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board (New Bedford), Lever (North Adams), Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board (Lawrence), Metro North Regional Employment Board (Cambridge), North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation (Fitchburg), North Shore Workforce Investment Board (Salem), Quinsigamond Community College (Worcester), Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School (Palmer), and South Shore Workforce Development Board (Quincy).

In a complementary effort to promote careers in advanced manufacturing, MassDevelopment is holding a fourth round of the [AMP it up! Video Challenge](#), which invites students to research the inner workings of an advanced manufacturing innovation and create a two-minute video showing how the innovation impacts the world around them. An online balloting tool will allow the public to help determine the winning videos, which will earn cash prizes donated to their schools. The top three videos will each win \$5,000 in funding for a total of \$15,000 in prize money.

“Massachusetts is home to some of the most innovative advanced manufacturing companies, which are creating exciting new products and job opportunities for our residents,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash. “Building a strong pipeline of talented workers is critical to the future of this industry in the Commonwealth.”

“MassDevelopment is delighted to award this sixth round of AMP it up! grants, which will fund creative programs across the Commonwealth,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. “We look forward to seeing the creative and innovative ways these grant recipients, ranging from workforce investment boards to vocational schools and community colleges, will promote the manufacturing industry as a rewarding, highly-skilled, well-paying career path.”

“Through the AMP it up! grant, the Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board is excited to introduce even more young people to the numerous, viable career pathways available in advanced manufacturing. Together with our regional advanced manufacturing companies and educational partners, young adults will learn about the career opportunities and skills needed to enter the manufacturing industry,” said Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board Executive Director Peter Farkas.

The community-based programs receiving the awards will host and organize activities like student internships, tours of advanced manufacturing companies, career awareness workshops, teacher and guidance counselor information sessions and manufacturing externships, and more. The AMP it up! campaign highlights the exciting, technology-driven, high-paying career options in manufacturing, dispels outdated misconceptions about the industry, and bolsters the prospective employee base for these quality jobs with Massachusetts companies. The sixth round of grants builds on the successes of the campaign’s [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), and [fifth](#) years.

**Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board, Lowell\*\* - \$6,000**

*In partnership with Excell Solutions Inc., Palace Manufacturing, Wie Sic Machine Inc., Mack Technologies, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Pace Industries, Lowell High School, Greater Lowell Technical High School, Lowell High School Career Academy, and Tewksbury High School.*

The Greater Lowell Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (GLAMI) works to expose high school-aged youth in local communities to services that include career pathways, advanced manufacturing pipeline, skill-building, competency models, apprenticeships, sustainability, and labor market information. GLAMI will use this grant to target students from multiple disciplines to provide helpful activities, such as guest speaker panels, workshops, company tours, and either an advanced manufacturing career fair or participation in options fair.

MassDevelopment, the state’s finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, financial institutions, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2017, MassDevelopment financed or managed 377 projects generating investment of more than \$4.3 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are projected to create about 9,488 jobs and build or rehabilitate 1,863 residential units.