

HIRE U.S.

LEVERAGING THE UNITED STATES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK: SUCCESS STORIES FROM ACROSS AMERICA



U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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LOTUS ADVISORY, LTD





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**Leveraging the United States
Workforce Development Network:
Success Stories from Across the Nation**

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**Prepared By:
U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce
Development Council
COSA
California Workforce Association
Michigan Works!
Lotus Advisory Ltd.**

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Executive Summary

Economists and the stock market have been celebrating the low unemployment rate indicating the United States has achieved a sustained period of full employment. However, in communities across the country, there are Americans who are either underemployed or stuck in low wage jobs with limited earning potential and businesses that have had to either reach out to other countries, or let job openings go unfilled because of a dearth of skilled labor.

The United States has an established nationwide network of over 500 locally-controlled workforce development boards (a.k.a. WDBs) created through the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)—bipartisan legislation that received almost unanimous support in Congress. These boards serve workers and job creators in communities across the country. They serve urban, suburban, and rural economies – all competing globally for jobs, new technologies, and profit. In addition, as shown in Appendix C, WDBs provide a return on investment of \$1.72 for every \$1 in public funds spent.

The data only tell part of the story. To quote President Trump: “Far too often in Washington, we get our heads wrapped around a number and a statistic. And we look at and we forget the faces and the families and the businesses that are behind those numbers.”

This paper provides real world examples of the people and employers who have benefitted from local workforce development programs. As our country enters a new phase of its economic growth, the nation’s workforce development network is ready to be a partner to achieve the Administration’s and Congress’ “Buy American, Hire American” vision.

LANSING, MICHIGAN FRANCHINO MOLD & ENGINEERING

“[O]ne of the most important priorities-and biggest obstacles-to our future growth is finding, training and retaining a skilled workforce. We can buy the best equipment and the most [advanced] machinery available, but if we don’t have anyone to program or operate these machines and put together our molds and dies, we can’t be successful and we certainly can’t grow... We are fortunate to have built important working partnerships with... the **Capital Area Michigan Works!** and the **Capital Area Manufacturing Council**, both of which have been instrumental in helping to solve the skilled trade talent gap.”

BRAD RUSTHOVEN
Human Resources Manager,
Franchino Mold & Engineering

¹“Trump interested in plight of U.S. workers more than unemployment rate – spokesman.” CBS Marketwatch, 24 Jan. 2017, www.marketwatch.com/story/trump-focused-on-helping-workers-not-low-unemployment-rate-spokesman-says-2017-01-23.



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