

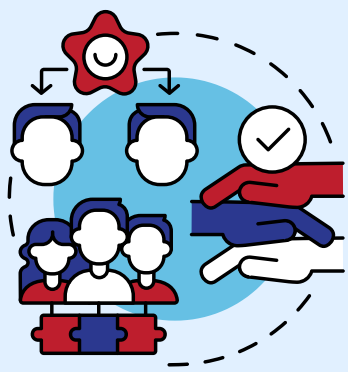


# Collaborative Workshop for Alabama's Manufacturing Workforce

## An ADAMC Success Story

### The Workshop

On February 29, 2024, the "Improving Workforce Quality for the Regional Manufacturing Ecosystem" workshop was held at the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation and Integration Center (AMIIC). Co-hosted by the American Manufacturing Communities Collaborative (AMCC) and the Alabama Defense Advanced Manufacturing Community (ADAMC), the event brought together key stakeholders from universities, community colleges, secondary school systems, economic and workforce development organizations, industry, and the U.S. Army/DoD.



### Workforce Support

Manufacturers face the challenge of navigating a complex support ecosystem to address workforce development, research and innovation, supply chains, infrastructure, trade, and capital access. Without a coordinated effort, it becomes difficult to prepare a skilled workforce that meets the evolving demands of the industry. Alabama's workforce development priorities highlight the urgent need for a strong support system to improve outcomes for businesses and communities.

### Workforce Problems

The workshop aimed to accelerate progress in enhancing a robust workforce ecosystem that is striving to strengthen the state's manufacturing talent pipeline. Key discussions centered around AMCC's Manufacturing Community Ecosystem Metrics (MCEM) project, which seeks to identify essential players and metrics for measuring and communicating workforce development quality. Participants engaged in rich discussions and collaborative exercises to enhance alignment among stakeholders. Breakout sessions focused on addressing current challenges, identifying gaps in tracking trainee achievements, and sharing best practices. These sessions underscored the complexity of obtaining reliable data and the necessity of a coordinated approach to measure workforce preparedness effectively.

### Key Takeaways

The broad range of attendees and their active engagement were celebrated as a testament to the workshop's success in fostering collaboration. Key takeaways include:

- *Tracking Success:* The necessity of determining relevant success metrics and consistently tracking progress.
- *Visualizing Stakeholder Relationships:* The need for clear visualization of stakeholder relationships to identify and address gaps in improving workforce quality.
- *Ongoing Engagement:* The importance of continuous engagement with stakeholders to refine objectives and strategies.



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**By aligning on strategies and leveraging the collective expertise of all stakeholders, the Alabama manufacturing ecosystem is poised to thrive and meet the industry's evolving demands.**