

# Wichita State wins a major national federal jobs and innovation grant

Friday, September 27, 2013

Wichita State's Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement will receive a \$200,000 federal interagency grant to create more jobs. The planning grant will identify and prioritize key tactical manufacturing investments and align resources to support the region's advanced manufacturing sector.

On September 25, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, along with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, and Acting Small Business Administrator Jeanne A. Hult, announced the winners of the first funding phase of the "Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership" (IMCP), a new initiative that will help accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States and create jobs in cities across the country.

The \$7 million in grants and other investments being announced are the first round of funding in a major reform effort to reward communities for creating globally competitive environments that attract, retain, and expand investment in manufacturing and spur international trade and exports. These grants and investments will help communities develop plans to build strengths in specific industries through:

- Workforce training
- Specialized research
- Strengthened supply chains
- Improved transportation and energy infrastructure
- Export promotion
- Better access to capital

"The IMCP is a program that challenges communities around the country to coordinate their resources for strategies on economic development," said Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. "These planning grants and investments provide an opportunity for communities to design plans that help revitalize American manufacturing, attract investment, and strengthen our economy."

## **Economic development**

IMCP was first announced in April 2013 and is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help communities cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in cities across the country.

This first phase of the program provides 44 planning grants and investments to support the creation of economic development strategies that recognize the community's comparative advantages as a place to do business, invest in public goods, and encourage collaboration between multiple different entities to expand the area's commercial appeal to investors.

The grant to WSU will help our community undertake the strategic planning necessary to compete for the IMCP Challenge being launched in fall 2013 and to be awarded in the spring of 2014. In the 2014 Challenge competition, the Administration will designate stand-out “Manufacturing Communities” and give them an advantage in securing grants and investments through programs offered by 10 federal departments and agencies across the government. Moreover, top “Manufacturing Communities” may receive large IMCP Challenge grants and investments to finance – in partnership with industry and localities – substantial economic development investments such as workforce training, business parks or incubators, or infrastructure.

"This is another milestone in the efforts of Wichita State University College of Engineering and Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement in their contributions to the economic development of the Wichita region," said Vish Prasad, Interim Dean of Engineering.

Wichita State established the Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement in November 2010 to provide the expertise and infrastructure needed to help accelerate development of the advanced manufacturing industry cluster in Kansas.

The programs, laboratories and expertise of the College of Engineering, in collaboration with the center's partners and institutions, build on WSU's reputation as a trusted industry partner engaging to tackle problems with passion and objectivity. The center provides help with engineering support, workforce training and business planning. More than 200 small and medium sized companies are part of the economic cluster.

[Read more about the Investing in Manufacturing Community Partnership.](#)

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