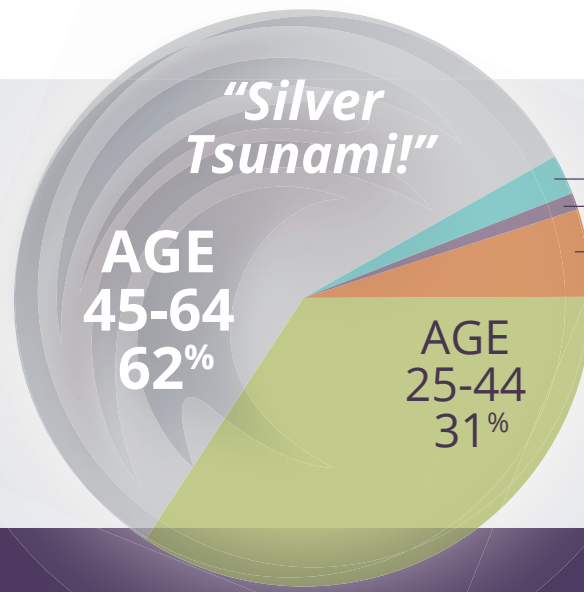


Philanthropic investment in innovative sector based dual-customer solutions, funding "The Lab"

Workforce Central Collaborative
Investing in rural workforce partnerships, focused on strengthening central Wisconsin's economy through training and support for job seekers, workers and employers.



MANUFACTURING SECTOR KEY DRIVER



AGE 19-24 4%
AGE 14-18 1%
AGE 65+ 2%

Source: QWI Online

MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP

Using the dual-customer strategy (employer and employee) and leveraging labor supply and demand to provide access to family sustaining career opportunities for those with barriers.

Four Focus Areas

Achievements/Milestones

Peer-to-Peer Leadership Support

- Shared best practices in areas such as safety, quality, process improvement, policies, and retention practices
- System change in employment practices to signal true needs for skills and credentials
- System changes to collaborative technical college partner with greater focus on true business needs
- Collective feedback and input to local utility providers resulting in improved reliability
- Multiple sector training strategies developed for dislocated workers, incumbent supervisors, incumbent employees
- Formation of other needed workforce/economic development initiatives
- Stronger relationships established resulting in increased trust and communication

Pipeline Solutions

- Respect for needs of businesses, students, and the educational systems
- Collaboration of public and private school systems as well as technical college (MSTC)
- Educator and administrator business tours to increase understanding of the modern manufacturing environment and technological advancements
- Business tours of high schools to develop understanding of real constraints on the educational systems and the current curriculum offerings
- Increasing STEM student demand through summer camps and curriculum changes
- Constellation "Energy to Educate" grant to expand STEM curriculum in area high schools
- Expansion of youth apprenticeships into area manufacturing facilities
- UW La Crosse, 3 credit summer educator course immersion in the region's business sectors

Training Solutions

- 684 College credits earned in the supervisory training program towards associate's degrees
- 329 Job seekers served through Pathways and Food Manufacturing Science Certificate (FMSC) programs
- 223 Industry credentials earned
- 102 Incumbent participants in the supervisory training program
- 27 Trained in Hazard Analysis for Critical Control Point training (HACCP) for area food processors
- 24 Trained in Lean Six Sigma
- 18 Incumbent non-supervisory participants completed the MSSC CPT

Sector Awareness & Promotion

- Published "The Ultimate Source of Manufacturing Competitiveness, the Case for Corporate Training Investments"
- "Building Your Local Economy" whitepaper on economic development via leveraging community assets and supply chain
- National & state advocacy on rural strategies/challenges, and the use of a place-based, community-driven model to address
- Sparkfun, VEX Robotics, and Race Car Engineering summer STEM camps with local newspaper coverage
- Vital Signs, economic data to stakeholders including educators and CEOs for strategy development
- High school career discovery days as well as community and school presentations about local job opportunities
- Local media coverage including newspaper, television, and radio show coverage of key work and events
- Support and collaboration on study and report on the aftermath of the Port Edwards mill closure

ADVANCED WORK

Implementation of a sustainable infrastructure

Entry and advanced maintenance training solutions

Optimize employment practices and systems

Expansion of "advanced" manufacturing methods

Articulated regional career pathways

Increased student demand for STEM skills

Expanded manufacturing youth apprenticeships

Potential process training

Leverage FMSC curriculum

Increased appreciation of manufacturing careers

Major Partners

