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Institute for Advanced Manufacturing Officially Open for Business

Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, New York

This fall Clinton Community College (CCC) opened its Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (IAM), a 30,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility designed and equipped to provide hands-on technology training and support for advanced manufacturing.

In September of 2014, CCC and its partners secured \$12.7 million through the SUNY 2020 challenge grant program to construct the IAM. The College broke ground on the new facility in May of 2016, and almost 16 months later welcomed its first cohort of degree-seeking students and sessions of workforce development employee training. The IAM is the first new building constructed on Clinton's campus since the Stafford Center for Art, Science and Technology opened in 1998.

"The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing is the type of building that inspires excitement for learning, and I hope it will serve to draw more students to explore the field of manufacturing, which provides a tremendous amount of job opportunities in the North Country region," said SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson. "My congratulations to the Clinton Community College family."

Clinton's educational partners include Clarkson University, CV-TEC, SUNY Plattsburgh, and Champlain College Saint-Lambert in Longueuil, QC. Other partners include CITEC, the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, North Country Workforce Investment Board, The Development Corporation, and a number of area manufacturers.

"More than a building, the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing is a pathway to the future for North Country employers in need of a skilled workforce, for North Country residents seeking careers in modern manufacturing and technology, and for the achievement of quality growth for the North Country economy," stated Garry Douglas, President of the North Country Chamber of Commerce.

The IAM is seen by local leaders as a critical platform for sustaining and growing manufacturing in the North Country, and is already supporting efforts to attract new companies and investment to the area. The facility houses Clinton's technology degree programs, and will serve as a regional hub for manufacturing education with flexible teaching/learning space and courses available for manufacturers to advance their workforce.

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council identified transportation, aerospace and manufacturing as a priority cluster for economic development in the region, and the IAM is designed to help foster growth. Over 8000 people are already employed at 38 manufacturing companies in Clinton County alone. Clinton County is poised to be a leading center of advanced manufacturing in the Northeast with local employers projecting growth, which will increase the demand for skilled employees.

"Clinton County continues to create its own future, and Clinton Community College is helping to lead the way. The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing will help ensure that the region retains a vibrant manufacturing base, and that we have an educated and trained workforce qualified to fill the jobs that will be created here," states Paul Grasso, President of The Development Corporation.

In the North Country region, it is projected that the need for machinists will grow by 27%, mechanical engineers by 25%, assemblers by 16%, and welders by 11%. The statewide median salaries for these positions range from \$38,000 for assemblers and welders to \$84,000 for mechanical engineers. The IAM at CCC

offers some of the only programs in our region to prepare students for these competitive positions.

"We have worked very closely with the IAM Advisory Committee and industry partners to ensure that the programs we have developed, and the equipment and design of the IAM are as relevant as possible," states IAM Director, Kris Renadette. "When students go into the workforce, the manufacturing environment, tools, machinery, and even policies and codes of conduct are familiar to them."

Clinton Community College is a member of the State University of New York system. Clinton offers 22 associate degree programs, seven certificates, multiple non-credit professional credentials, and many flexible learning options including online and evening courses. As part of the SUNY system, Clinton credits transfer seamlessly. ♦

