



## PARTNERING TO MANUFACTURE WORK-BASED LEARNING SUCCESS: Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center Training (OMIC Training)

**Industry-driven:** Modeled on Boeing’s training center in the United Kingdom, OMIC Training is an industry partnership workforce training center led by Portland Community College (PCC) with representatives from multiple businesses, including Boeing and other large businesses as well as smaller and mid-sized manufacturers in the area.<sup>5</sup>

**Aligned with workforce and education systems:** In addition to the business partners, PCC brings together K-12 school districts, four-year universities in the state, representatives from labor including those from Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers, representatives from the workforce system and community organizations working with recipients of TANF and SNAP to link those workers with skills training and employment opportunities through the OMIC Training.

**Locally-based:** The partnerships forged in the creation of OMIC are formalized versions of those that existed before the center. Building on existing relationships will enable PCC to tailor training to meet a broad range of both worker and business needs, including those of small and mid-sized companies with whom coordination often takes a longer time to implement because staff is pulled in many different directions and training may typically be provided – and developed – on an ad hoc basis.

### Expanding work-based learning:

As a founding partner, PCC is in the process of aligning efforts to recruit workers for OMIC Training with the Oregon Community College SNAP 50/50 Consortia, a collaboration of fourteen community colleges and the state Department of Human Services. Through the PCC-led consortium, colleges provide SNAP recipients with coaching in their career pathways program and

scholarships to pay for tuition, books, tools, and equipment they need for the structured on-the-job component of the program. One such pathway, the Maritime Welding program, was created in collaboration with

Vigor, a large pacific northwest shipbuilder. During training, participants learn onsite in the Vigor shipyards from faculty who have worked in the industry, many of whom are also employed by Vigor. Employers offer class presentations, tours, mock interviews, and participating in career fairs. The pathway culminates in two stackable Career Pathway Certificates and multiple industry recognized credentials. Students attend a career fair after graduation to network with hiring employers, including Vigor. The program has an 80 percent completion rate, and 78 percent of completing students have been hired in the industry with a starting wage of \$19 an hour. Vigor is also a partner in OMIC Training, and by building on the maritime welding pathway, PCC will create a training course that helps participants build on existing skills to reach the level necessary for the certified welders to transition to apprenticeship programs to be offered through OMIC Training. This approach will increase diversity in the field and create access to careers offering economic mobility, critical to the students served in the SNAP 50/50 project.



*Virtual welding at Oregon Manufacturing Training Center*