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# Wisconsin Fast Forward Program: Grant Writing Overview

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# Presenters

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## **Barbara Bauer**

Program Director, B.S Technology Education  
University of Wisconsin-Stout

## **Dennis Powers**

Grants Program Manager  
Office of Skills Development  
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development



# Agenda

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- WFF program highlights
- WFF Expanded Grant Program – Technical Education
- Grant process and review
- Review a grant program announcement
- Walk through the grant application
- Review scoring rubric



# DWD-Office of Skills Development

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- The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program was signed into law in March 2013 with the near-unanimous support of the State Legislature, creating the DWD Office of Skills Development (OSD)
- Addresses Wisconsin's skills gap through investing in grants to employers for customized skills training, to fill current job openings and ongoing skill requirements
- Invests in school districts to support the purchase of equipment to enhance advanced manufacturing skills for high school students
- Information about the program is available at [WisconsinFastForward.com](http://WisconsinFastForward.com)



# WFF Program Budget

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- WFF is funded with state General Purpose Revenue funds and has an annual budget of approximately \$6 million for standard grants
- \$1 million for Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment grants
- \$500,000 for Teacher Training and Recruitment Grants
- OSD has awarded 171 Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment grants to school districts for over \$5 million.





# Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Equipment Grant Program



# Technical Education Grant Program

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- Grant to purchase advanced manufacturing equipment to train high school students to help address Wisconsin's skilled worker shortage.
- Provide students and their families with a way to reduce higher education costs by providing dual enrollment credits, industry endorsed certificates, and technical endorsements on high school diplomas.
- Accelerate the transition of students into Wisconsin's workforce



# Technical Education Grant

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- Eligible Applicants: Wisconsin School Districts
- School District means a territorial unit for school administration. School districts are classified as common, union high, unified, and 1<sup>st</sup> class city school districts. A joint school district is one territory of which is not wholly in one municipality.





# Eligible Manufacturing Fields

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Smart Manufacturing	Additive Manufacturing
Machining and Controls	Robotics
Digital Manufacturing and Design	Photonics
Electronics	Materials and Composites
Chemical and Thermal Processes	Healthcare and Medicine
Biotechnology	Bioenergy
Bioproducts	Biomanufacturing



# Program Requirements

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- School districts apply
- Meet the needs of employers in their region
- Leverage partnerships and matching funds
- Optimize regional training capacity
- Increase the supply of skilled workers in advanced manufacturing fields
- Build on proven programs
- Include mechanisms for sustainability
- Track outcomes from grant supported equipment purchases
- Annual reports submitted by Sept. 1 of each of the three fiscal years



# Program Requirements

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School  
Districts

\$5,000 to  
\$50,000

\$2 : \$1  
match



# Grant Process and Review

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- Grant Program Announcement (GPA)
  - Lists requirements and instructions for applying
  - Posted on Wisconsin Fast Forward website
  - Announcement distributed via listserv and DPI contact list
- Advanced Manufacturing Grant Application
  - Word Document
  - Posted on Wisconsin Fast Forward website
- Advanced Manufacturing Grant Rubric
  - Explains how grant will be evaluated and scored
  - Posted on Wisconsin Fast Forward website



# Grant Program Announcement

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[https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/Technical\\_Education\\_Equipment\\_GPA\\_Final\\_20221006.pdf](https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/Technical_Education_Equipment_GPA_Final_20221006.pdf)



# Grant Application Requirements

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What makes a successful WFF grant application?

- The basics:
  - Why do they NEED this grant?
  - Who is impacted by the grant?
  - What is going to be accomplished through the grant?
  - How does a grant help the applicant achieve goals?
    - Includes a clear and concise project timeline leading to outcomes defined in the application and GPA.



# Grant Evaluation Guidelines

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## Rubric is posted

- Demand-driven project need
- Leverages partnerships
- Optimizes training capacity
- Builds on proven programs
- Demonstrates sustainability

## Scoring rubric

- [https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/Tech\\_Ed\\_Rubric\\_Final\\_2022\\_1006.pdf](https://wisconsinfastforward.com/pdf/Tech_Ed_Rubric_Final_2022_1006.pdf)



# Resources/Contact Information

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- Statutes – 2013 Wisconsin Act 9
  - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/9.pdf>
- Administrative Rules
  - DWD 802 – Technical Education Equipment Grants
    - [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/dwd/801\\_810/802.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dwd/801_810/802.pdf)
- Wisconsin Fast Forward Website
  - <https://wisconsinfastforward.com/>





# Questions?

Barb Bauer  
Program Director, UW-Stout  
[bauerb@uwstout.edu](mailto:bauerb@uwstout.edu)

Dennis Powers  
Grants Program Manager  
[dennisj.powers@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dennisj.powers@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

