Manufacturing Sector Action Teams Combined

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Meeting Summary

- **Dallas College Marketable Skills and Digital Badges Initiative**
  - Sharon Manna presented Dallas College's Marketable Skills Initiative and Digital Badges program, which helps students identify, articulate, and demonstrate workforce-relevant skills.
  - The initiative creates shared language skills for students, faculty, and employers, helping bridge the gap between classroom learning and workforce expectations.
  - Digital badges are issued through Parchment, including verified metadata, and can be shared on resumes and LinkedIn. Students earn badges by completing designated assignments and reflections that may lead to competency milestone badges.
  - Faculty are integrating career-relevant learning into coursework, while employers are invited to validate the skills inventory, identify missing skills, and help co-design assignments aligned with industry needs.
  - The initiative currently focuses on academic transfer students and is expanding to additional sectors. Sharon also highlighted faculty professional development opportunities, upcoming dual credit presentations, and employer participation in the October Academic Innovations Conference.
  - Industry participants expressed interest in continued collaboration, including educator site visits and direct employer input to strengthen program relevance.
    - Attachments:
      DB Flyer.png
      MSI one-pager.docx

- **EDA AI Upskilling Grant Opportunity**
  - Eddie Tealer outlined Dallas College's pursuit of an $8 million EDA grant focused on AI upskilling for manufacturing and logistics.
  - The grant requires a 40% cost share and asks industry partners to commit to specific training numbers rather than providing general letters of support.

- The proposal is due at the end of July, with a three-year grant period that includes two years of training. Industry commitments are requested by June 22 to help define the budget and scope.
- Eddie clarified questions about partner time commitments, deliverables, cost share expectations, and the role of the Ascend Institute in managing the initiative.
- Several manufacturers have already submitted commitments. Eddie encouraged additional partners to participate and emphasized that training content will be industry-driven, with fiscal management potentially involving partners such as SMU.

- **Texas Instruments CHIPS Act Teacher Training and Pipeline Development**
  - John from Texas Instruments shared updates on the $10 million CHIPS Act-funded initiative supporting teacher training, curriculum updates, and advanced manufacturing career pathways.
  - TI is providing training for community college and high school faculty, with a focus on electronic technology curriculum, hands-on skills, and industry-relevant instruction. Participants receive stipends.
  - The curriculum is being revised with industry input to strengthen relevance, including updates related to components such as resistor relays and circuit breakers. TI invited other advanced manufacturing companies to review and contribute.
  - Pipeline development efforts include middle school summer camps, hands-on boot camps, internships, and workplace learning opportunities designed to keep students engaged from early exposure through postsecondary pathways.
  - TI is providing training equipment for participating schools and working with partners such as Global Wafers and Interlink to sustain the pipeline beyond CHIPS Act funding.
  - Industry partners expressed interest in reviewing curricula, attending future meetings, and supporting broader collaboration to ensure the program meets workforce needs.
    - Attachment:

CHIPS Intern - Partners Flyer.pdf

- **Industry-Education Collaboration Platforms and Student Engagement**
  - Roscoe, Clint Elsasser, and others discussed ways to strengthen student engagement and industry partner participation.
  - Roscoe proposed a platform where companies can share accessible links, videos, and career resources with students and instructors to provide a broader view of manufacturing career opportunities.
  - Clint described a Mesquite ISD platform under development with a third-party EdTech company. The platform would allow students to build portfolios, connect with industry partners, and access internship and job postings.
  - Steven and John discussed possible integration with workintexas.com to help track graduate outcomes and support a more scalable connection system across ISDs.
  - Clint invited interested partners to join future discussions about expanding the platform, engaging additional companies and ISDs, and coordinating broader adoption.

    - Attachment:
      Work-Based Learning Module Provides Real-World Experiences | Xello

Upcoming Area Manufacturing Events

- Roscoe and Steven shared updates on teacher externships, Leadership Academy 2.0, Texas Career Day, and upcoming action team and quarterly meetings.
- One teacher externship position remains open, and interested companies were encouraged to participate.
- Leadership Academy 2.0 has launched at Dallas College Garland, and Texas Career Day is scheduled for September 24.
- The next action team meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 8:30 AM via Microsoft Teams. Additional quarterly meeting dates are being considered for August and September.
- Clint offered to host a future meeting at Mesquite ISD's Vanguard facility to showcase CTE programs.

- **State Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing**
  - Nahum Pacheco provided an update on the state-level task force focused on modernizing manufacturing in Texas.
  - The task force is assessing adoption of modernized manufacturing, identifying employer challenges, and developing recommendations to support implementation.
  - Nahum invited industry partners to share experiences, challenges, and recommendations for relay to the task force and noted the relevance of digital badging and EdTech platforms to this work.
  - Eddie asked Nahum to share relevant grant opportunities with the manufacturing team. Nahum noted that future grants may place greater emphasis on productivity improvements rather than headcount alone.
  - Steven connected Nahum with Terrence Southern, a manufacturing automation expert, to support best-practice sharing and inform the task force's work.

Follow-up Tasks:

- **Distribute meeting materials:** Add the digital badge flyer and marketable skills faculty integrator program flyer links to the meeting notes and distribute them to all participants. *Owners: Eddie, Gloria*

- **Validate marketable skills:** Review Dallas College's marketable skills inventory and provide feedback to ensure alignment with industry needs. *Owners: Roscoe, Evan, John, and other manufacturing industry partners*

- **Coordinate Academic Innovations Conference participation:** Work with Dr. Manna to support employer panel participation and provide industry input for the October 2027 Academic Innovations Conference. *Owners: Roscoe, Evan, John, and other manufacturing industry partners*

- **Submit EDA AI Upskilling Grant support letters:** Submit completed support letter templates on company letterhead to Robin Donovan and copy Dr. Tealer. *Owners: All interested industry partners*

- **Review advanced manufacturing curriculum:** Review and provide input on the CHIPS Act-funded advanced manufacturing curriculum to ensure industry relevance. *Owners: Earl and other interested industry partners*

- **Discuss EdTech platform integration:** Meet to explore potential integration between Mesquite ISD's EdTech platform and workintexas.com for tracking student employment outcomes. *Owners: Clint, Steven, Max*

- **Provide input to the state task force:** Send recommendations or feedback on modernized manufacturing adoption to the state task force. *Owners: All manufacturers on the call*

- **Share grant opportunities:** Inform the manufacturing team of relevant grant opportunities that emerge through the state task force or other sources. *Owner: Nahum*

NOTE: *The meeting agenda is included below with these notes | pages 6-7*

Action Team Meeting

Training/ Recruitment and Promotion

AGENDA

Date: June 18, 2026

MS-Teams Virtual Meeting **08:30 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.**

Action Item
Welcome - Roscoe Davis

- Company updates and hiring needs?
- Digital Badging/Credentialing Discussion
  - Sharon A. Manna, Ph.D. Dean, Marketable Skills & Digital Badging

  Facilitator, Dallas College Marketable Skills Faculty Integrator Program

- Dr. Eddie Tealer- Training opportunity to pursue an Economic Development Administration (EDA) AI Upskilling Grant Monday, June 22, 2026.

  Key areas of discussion that you may consider include:
- Framing the project around advanced manufacturing roles:
  - Mechatronics technicians
  - Facility maintenance occupations
  - Incorporating an AI overlay into existing training programs (e.g., robotics, PLCs, predictive maintenance)
- Emphasizing that:
  - AI should be positioned as enhancing jobs, not replacing jobs
  - Training will support both new entrants and incumbent workers.
- CHIPS ACT- John Fullilove
  - The Internship message below is part of TI's effort to invest in both driving advanced manufacturing program(s) awareness and improving students "line of sight" to *Technician* employability in the sector. In addition to these internships, this summer we're deploying a few additional initiatives, all funded by CHIPS dollars the next 3 years. These dollars aren't limitless, but they can help seed the right programs that will enable us into the future.
  - Electronic Technology Teacher Training: To close this gap, we're hosting one week of Community College Faculty training (Dallas And Tarrant Colleges; June 15-18)), and 6 weeks of HS teacher Training in the Electronic Technology (June 22-July 30) where we've had a "look under the hood of the curriculum" and provide industry relevant insights and suggest curriculum improvements (safety, troubleshooting, more hands on content, etc.) for Fall 2026.

- How do we reach more Industry partners?
  - We would like to see if how many employers are interested in lists their company and providing links to their company site on EDGE?

Company	Address
Plastipak Packaging,	3201 Miller Park N., Garland, TX

New Items and open discussion: Where is the best location on the site for this?
Create space in sector Edge North Texas website for Employers to introduce their company's process to students and parents. https://edgenorthtexas.com

Upcoming Area Manufacturing Events:

- Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, Tarrant County, North Central Texas. Summer's program is filling up quickly, No manufacturers have signed up. This is a 2 weeks for a total of 40 hours with an externship teacher receiving a $2,500 stipend that is funded by the following workforce boards. You can do it for 1 week or 2, just let us know which you choose. Our Teacher has the following dates available to participate: 6/22-6/26, or 6/29 – 7/3, or 7/6-7/10, or 7/13-7/17, or 7/20-7/24. Contact: sbridges@wfsdallas.com Here is the link to Register: Hosting Teacher Externs Summer 2026
- June 3 thru July 15 | Leadership Academy 2.0 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | Dallas College Garland Center | Contact Liza Ceniceros at liza.ceniceros@garlandchamber.com
- June 10 thru July 22 | Leadership Academy 1.0 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | Dallas College Garland Center | Contact Liza Ceniceros at liza.ceniceros@garlandchamber.com
- Executive Edge – designed for plant managers and CEOs: SME Executive Edge
- Texas Career Day: September 24, Curtis Colwell Center (focus on manufacturing, contact Steven Bridges for details). sbridges@wfsdallas.com
- Make It in America Summit October 20 – 22, Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. sbridges@wfsdallas.com
- Online Workforce Readiness Assessment – a five-minute survey to help identify your current workforce challenges: Workforce Readiness Assessment

Next Meeting July 23, 2026.

- Discuss the Next MFG Quarterly Meeting Date August 14 | September 4 | September 11, we would like to host at a CTE site DISD or MISD.

Adjourn