

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO OFFER A FAME ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN (AMT) PROGRAM AS PART OF AN INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP**

The South Shore INFAME Chapter (hereafter known as the “Chapter”) seeks proposals from post-secondary education institutions in the greater Northwest Indiana area to create a mutually beneficial education partnership modeled on the national Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program. FAME is an industry-led talent pipeline program that engages PreK-12 systems, community colleges, and universities in a highly coordinated, seamless model known as the FAME Career Pathway. A local FAME chapter is composed of employers, institutions of education, non-profit education organizations, workforce and economic development organizations, government representatives, and more.

This proposal is intended to lead to an agreement to create an advanced manufacturing work-study curriculum (hereafter known as the “AMT Program”) with a local community college or associate degree level program (hereafter known as the “College Partner”) that will confer upon graduates an associate degree in the area of multidisciplinary technical education (or other, as a consensus of the Chapter); an AMT Certificate that recognizes, among other things, deep development in a set of soft skills known as the Professional Behaviors and completion of a set of lean manufacturing courses known as the Manufacturing Core Exercises; and any other certificates which the chosen institution may already confer as a result of accumulated courses in the curriculum.

The Chapter requires that classes and other activities by the College Partner be scheduled for two days per week, with a minimum of 8 planned and coordinated contact hours each day, for each AMT Program cohort; the students will work at their respective sponsoring employer companies for the remaining three days. The span of the education program for AMT Program students will span five straight semesters, from the Fall Semester of the first year for each cohort through the Spring Semester of the concluding year (Spring-Fall-Summer-Fall-Spring). The program will be primarily funded through the normal tuition process, though based on similar activities at existing FAME AMT Program locations it is likely that substantial funding will also be gained through grants and other sources of monetary or in-kind support. College Partners will calculate a total program cost and AMT students will be paid a base wage while working at their employers which will be sufficient to cover such cost and to also provide an amount for living expenses. The preferred date for enrolling the first cohort is Fall 2024.

Proposals for interested education institutions must include a plan to:

- 1) Offer a set of courses (the degree program) to build a broad set of technical skills that result in an accredited associate degree; an example degree program is set forth in Attachment 1 but the final course mix will be subject to agreement of the Chapter.
- 2) Treat AMT Students as cohort groups which will participate in all activities together, including academic class sections (technical, general education, etc.)
- 3) State the minimum number of AMT Program students needed to start the program, to deliver courses and provide services. To date, all AMT Programs have grown in the number of enrolled students in subsequent years.
- 4) Provide educational space, appropriate equipment, and faculty resources for the purpose of providing the College Partner portion of the program. “Educational space” includes the establishment of an open work emulation area known as the Advanced Manufacturing Center with equipment and functions necessary to meet goals and outcomes of the agreed upon degree program. Training equipment should correlate to chosen curriculum and, in such quantity, as to provide a 1:1 or 2:1 training experience for AMTs whenever feasible. Such equipment may include PLC and Robot trainers, a set of at least two realistically set (caged) industrial robots, computer lab, and other similar equipment.
- 5) The following development activities must be supported by the college and AMT instructor as an essential element of the program; the development of these activities described are fully supported by FAME USA and will be taught to the appropriate representatives.

- a) The Manufacturing Core Exercises (hereafter known as the MCEs). A set of 5 courses/activities, one offered each of the five semesters of the program, as follows: 1) Safety Culture; 2) Visual Workplace Organization/5S; 3) Lean Manufacturing Principles and Practices for Technical Work; 4) Problem Solving; 5) Machine Reliability.
    - i) The MCEs will require daily activities and require trained instructors.
  - b) The Professional Behaviors, a set of 18 “soft skill” areas that develop students to exhibit behaviors which promote significantly more impactful work success as well as a stronger set of social skills for whole-life success.
- 6) Support recruitment of new students for the AMT Program and new employers for the Chapter. AMT Program student recruiting is led by employers but needs substantial logistics support by the College Partner. Substantial training is provided by FAME USA for the recruiting model needed to seek the high achieving students needed for the AMT Program.
  - 7) Sustain College Partner program capability by sending appropriate representatives, in conjunction with all FAME programs, to the following events:
    - a) The FAME North American Conference generally held in May of each year; every effort is made by FAME USA to offer an event that is both affordable and logistically feasible.
    - b) The FAME Academy trainings for new key players in the College Partner Program (e.g., Program chair, designated AMT Program faculty instructors). The Academy is the core training event for leaders and providers of the program and will ensure knowledge of the MCEs, Professional Behaviors, and the many specific exercises and elements that make the FAME AMT program unique.
  - 8) FAME-USA will provide a dedicated website to highlight and promote the chapter; the college partner should plan to have web-based information alongside the degree program and point interested parties to the FAME website.
  - 9) Provide desk space in or near the AMC to support frequent visits and close collaboration with representatives of the Chapter.
  - 10) Work in close collaboration with other educational partners in the program, as examples:
    - a) Local PreK-12 school districts. There are several engaged activities that FAME may initiate with selected school districts that will promote STEM interest in general and, at appropriate grade levels, promote manufacturing and technical industries and recruiting to the AMT Program.
    - b) University Partners. Local institutions may strike a partnership with the Chapter for AMT Program graduates to continue their education and development in the manufacturing and technical industry engineering sphere through traditional engineering programs or bachelors level technology programs.
  - 11) Provide customary insurance for all activities that occur on the College Partner campus or within College Partner auspices for off-campus activities.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The final agreement should be executed via Memorandum of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding and may contain provisions in addition to those stipulated herein, as mutually agreed to by both parties.

The laws of the State/Commonwealth of Indiana shall govern all questions as to the execution, validity, interpretation, construction, and performance of any final agreement.

The final agreement will contain an alternative dispute resolution provision requiring the parties to resort to non-binding mediation and, failing resolution, to binding arbitration, governed by the United States Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§ et seq.

Educational Institutions which are interested in this request will be provided an information session within 30 days of the date of this Request for Proposals. Additional questions outside of the information session will be taken and will receive responses based on the ability of the Chapter and/or national FAME entities to do so. All proposals must be submitted by April 30, 2023 to Shaun Sahlhoff at [ssahlhoff@cwicorp.com](mailto:ssahlhoff@cwicorp.com), copying Tony Davis with FAME-USA at [TDavis@NAM.org](mailto:TDavis@NAM.org).

Those answering the RFP will be notified if they move on to final interview or have been eliminated May 10 with formal negotiations to follow.

BY:

The South Shore INFAME Chapter acting on behalf of a coalition of employers in the greater Northwest Indiana region.

CC: Konrady Plastics, KTR Corporation, Triplex Plating, American Renolit, Tristate Industries, Michigan City Paperbox, and Windeavor

Optional Exhibits:

- Basic elements/content for the desired course of study may be attached as Attachment 1