

Industry Cluster Grant – May 2017

International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS)

Request: \$160,000

Grant: Implementation

Project Term: Three months

Industry Cluster: Advanced Manufacturing

Catalytic nature of funding: IYRS & Rhode Island College received an Industry Cluster planning grant in May 2016 in the amount of \$75,290 to examine equipment needs and short term curricula for the “Mobile Maker Lab”, a traveling trailer equipped with 21st century manufacturing technologies to offer teens and under employed Rhode Islanders a hands-on experience and access to technologies associated with manufacturing jobs. The grantees are in the final stages of completing these activities and are requesting an Implementation Grant to purchase and outfit the Mobile Maker Lab to the specifications identified by the Planning Grant. Significant research has been done to date to gather data from 1) targeted secondary school marketplaces in RI, 2) industry partners, 3) technology providers and projects in which a similar deployment of this equipment was achieved. This data supports the development of a modular curriculum where resources are grouped together corresponding to specific outcomes and curricula links those modules together into sets of experiences that enable learners to develop a creative mindset (willingness to take risks) and personal design process (iteration, prototyping, ideation) thus preparing them for a wide variety of career paths. These core capabilities should be supplemented with spacial (translation between 2D and 3D) and technical (tools and technologies) awareness that may include industry or application specific knowledge alongside fundamentals.

The primary use of the Mobile Maker Lab will be for career awareness activities for high school students. IYRS will also offer events, training sessions and forums that bring together manufacturers and makers, and provides information to makers to grow their ventures and connect with other resources.

Rhode Island Textile Innovation Network (RITIN)

Request: \$85,000

Grant: Technical Assistance (Planning)

Project Term: One Year

Fiscal Agent: Polaris MEP

Industry Cluster: Textiles/Advanced Manufacturing

Catalytic nature of funding: An informal group of RI textile manufacturers had been meeting sporadically over the past decade. The purpose of this funding is to formalize this group as the Rhode Island Textile Innovation Network (RITIN), an affiliation of textile manufacturers based in Rhode Island and focused on: 1) promoting advanced textile manufacturing; 2) increasing business opportunities for RI based textile companies; and 3) forming partnerships between textile manufacturers, academia and government.