



WSU Tech, SpaceTEC®, SCCAP and Kamm Consulting Group Team Up to Win NSF Award for US College Delegation Tour of World-Class Apprenticeship Programs in Germany

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Wichita State University College of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech), SpaceTEC, Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program (SCCAP) and Kamm Consulting Group (KCG) were awarded a \$120,000 grant to arrange US College tours to Germany so instructors, students and apprentices at selected colleges can learn about Industry 4.0 advanced manufacturing apprenticeship programs and also establish apprenticeship exchange programs between the US and Germany.

As a means of furthering the development of advanced manufacturing education in the US, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) and the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) have invited grantees with an active Advanced Technological Education (ATE) award to participate in an international training and education opportunity.

MakerTEC (Manufacturing Alliance Keeping Education Relevant to Technical Employee Competence) is a project awarded by ATE to WSU Tech in September 2016 to create a multi-state Coordination Network (CN) for aviation, aerospace and advanced manufacturing workforce development.

Led by SpaceTEC Executive Director Steve Kane, MakerTEC is building resources to address industry's need for skilled workers able to succeed in today's advanced manufacturing environment by refining and strengthening technician preparation and work ethic understanding across all levels of education.

The grant will be used to fund a pair of trips to Germany for instructors and students (up to 24 total) to tour German Dual Education Apprenticeship Programs at world-class vocational training centers and leading world-class Industry 4.0 advanced manufacturers. The primary focus of this trip will be to establish apprenticeship program exchanges for students, instructors, world-class standards, curriculum and lab exercises between the US and Germany.

The NSF announcement comes on the heels of a recent SCCAP Apprentice Signing Ceremony attended by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in July to kick-off the first cohort of eight Mechatronics Technician apprentices signing on with SCCAP members Airbus OneWeb Satellites, RUAG Space USA, Rocket Crafters, Inc. and Knight's Armament Company.

SCCAP is a Florida Department of Education registered apprenticeship program with three registered world-class advanced manufacturing occupational apprenticeship standards influenced by German apprenticeship models. These occupations are: Advanced CNC Machinist, Mechatronics Technician, and Advanced Fiber Composites Technician.

SpaceTEC provides the general administration and fiscal transparency required of the program through its 501c3 status, and will assist as the Principal Investigator to seek federal, state and local funding to support the apprenticeship program. *"SPI/MakerTEC is honored to partner with SCCAP to win this NSF award. This will enable instructors and students at selected Colleges with advanced manufacturing programs to travel to Germany, not only to tour their world class apprenticeship programs, but also to establish apprenticeship exchange program ties with German vocational training centers and industrial*



leaders in Aerospace, Defense and Aircraft/Aviation advanced manufacturing " says Steve Kane, Executive Director.

KCG will be contracted to coordinate the tours to meet with leading vocational training centers in Germany's industrial belt that stretches from Nurnberg through Stuttgart and Augsburg to Munich. KCG will arrange the tour with existing KCG GAP™ (Germanic Apprenticeship Program) Turnkey Solution Partners including Hoffmann Group, Festo, Kuka, Siemens, EMCO Group and Weiler who are leaders in cutting edge Industry 4.0 manufacturing processes. The tour will replicate similar tours conducted by KCG in the past. This tour also intends to include visits to some very high profile Space, Defense and Aircraft manufacturers such as Airbus, RUAG and Lufthansa.

"Our target on this trip will be to visit the training centers that GAP™ Turnkey Solutions Partners use in recruiting their own apprentices to grow their own workforce talent pipeline for their companies", says Bryan Kamm, "These trips will enable our participating US colleges to better understand and replicate the German model as close as possible within our US educational infrastructure."



WSU Tech is Kansas's leader in modern technical education offering over 100 degree and certificate options in aviation, health care, manufacturing, design, information technology, police science and business. In 2018, WSU Tech was named the 2nd fastest growing college among two-year colleges by The Chronicle of Higher Education. WSU Tech serves as managing partner of the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) in Wichita, KS and is fully accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a Kansas Board of Regents institution. For more information, visit www.WSUTECH.edu.



SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI) provides third party testing as an independent measure of prospective technician job knowledge and skill acquisition. In addition, SPI's internationally accredited, industry-driven, nationally-recognized credentials reflect the competencies employers demand for those seeking employment in aerospace, aviation and advanced manufacturing industries. For more information about SPI programs, visit <https://www.spacetec.us/product-catalog/> or contact Executive Director Steve Kane at 321-567-5193.



SCCAP is a subcommittee of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc, comprised of SCCAP Executive Committee members Kai Schmidt, SCCAP Chair and Co-Founder (Airbus OneWeb Satellites), Mark Sutton, SCCAP Secretary and Co-Founder (RUAG Space USA), Rob Fabian and Martin McClellan, SCCAP Members (Rocket Crafters), Art Hoelke, SCCAP Member (Knight's Armament), Steve Kane, SCCAP Fiscal Administrator (SpaceTEC) and Bryan Kamm, SCCAP Founder and Lead Advisor (Kamm Consulting Group).



Kamm Consulting Group, LLC is a Florida-based company that provides site selection consulting for German-speaking companies in the US and assists in GAP™ (Germanic Apprenticeship Program) Turnkey Solutions implementations within US local communities. For more information about Kamm Consulting, visit www.bkammconsulting.com , or to learn more about the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program, visit www.bkammconsulting.com/space-coast-consortium, or call Bryan Kamm at 813-415-7514.