

Source: Jeff Tucker, 785-532-3421, jwtuck@k-state.edu

Website: <http://www.k-state.edu/ami/>

Written by: Bret Lanz, 785-532-7473, blanz@k-state.edu

Monday, September 30, 2018

Kansas State University's Advanced Manufacturing Institute Named an Economic Development Administration University Center

MANHATTAN — The United States Economic Development Administration has designated the Kansas State University Advanced Manufacturing Institute as part of its EDA University Center program. The Center is a collaborative effort of Kansas State University and the Kansas Department of Commerce to assist industry in developing and expanding products and technologies which will have a positive economic impact in the region.

The initiative will provide \$1.675 million over a five year period to assist entrepreneurs and existing businesses across the state with strategic planning efforts to identify and overcome the technical challenges of developing new products and technologies.

Jeff Tucker, executive director of Kansas State University's Advanced Manufacturing Institute said, "We are extremely pleased that the Economic Development Administration has chosen to support our efforts to become increasingly engaged with organizations around the region to provide a new level of technology development services. As technology continues to evolve and prototyping processes improve, we find our organization taking a leading role in assisting companies and entrepreneurs in the front end development of new products and technologies. We believe that having an experienced staff of business and engineering professional can significantly reduce the cost and time required to develop new technologies."

This integrated approach to a public/private partnership focuses on providing innovation-based economic development to help Kansas entities become more competitive by engaging applied research and development, technology scouting/management and streamlining the technology development process. In addition, rural communities and regions will directly benefit from several new regional innovation ecosystem building offerings, strengthening critical ecosystem elements and building new regional collaborations. These efforts will advance regional strategies, assist technology-based specific businesses, generate investment in the regional innovation infrastructure, increase job creation and close skill gaps to rebuild the "industrial commons" infrastructure.

Kansas State University's Advanced Manufacturing Institute provides a broad range of engineering and business development services and to both private industry and university researchers to advance the commercial readiness of new products or technologies. Additional information can be found at <http://www.k-state.edu/ami>.

#