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**CONTACT:** Jim Bellamy 419.267.1267 **jbellamy@NorthwestState.edu**

**NSCC RECEIVES $91,700 rapids 6 award**

**for robotic welder**

*Archbold, Ohio* – Northwest State Community College received a grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) in the amount of $91,700 to support the Regionally Aligned Priorities in Developing Skills (RAPIDS) program, an initiative of the ODHE. Northwest State will use the award to purchase a Robotic Welder for its STEM and Industrial Technologies division. The grant proposal was submitted by a consortium of educational partners, which included Northwest State.

**GREAT TEAMWORK WITH REGIONAL EDUCATION PARTNERS**

The Northwest Ohio Regional Training Hub (NORTH) Consortium of Educational Partners is a group of state and private higher education institutions and Ohio Technical Centers working together to address shared education joint workforce development and economic sustainability goals for the Northwest Ohio region. Representatives from the NORTH Consortium have coordinated equipment sharing and training opportunities, engaged collectively with business partners, helped to supply the region with personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently, developed a sixth RAPIDS project focused on additive and advanced manufacturing, as well as, cyber security.

The following NORTH Consortium members are represented in this proposal: The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Northwest State Community College, Owens Community College, Rhodes State College, Terra State Community College, Ohio Northern University, Tiffin University, Ohio State University Lima Campus and Apollo Career Center. In response to the RAPIDS 2022 RFP, the NORTH Consortium has designed a project that targets the workforce needs of our regional advanced manufacturing industry. The equipment requested within this proposal will further the consortium’s capabilities to educate and train the growing robotics and additive manufacturing workforce, with a corresponding focus on cybersecurity in industrial environments.

The proposal noted, “(The NORTH Consortium) will offer a wide range of hands-on training for in-demand occupations, including stackable and industry-recognized credentials, internships, apprenticeships, certificates, and degrees for students and incumbent workers from the Ohio Technical Centers through university graduate-level programs. Our combined efforts will build on our existing network of RAPIDS equipment resources to provide enhanced training opportunities in the machine tool production, additive manufacturing, robotics, and cybersecurity.”

**NSCC QUOTABLE**

Ashley Pere, NSCC Director of Grants Development, noted “NSCC works closely with our industry and educational partners to develop projects that serve the workforce needs in our region. This RAPIDS award will provide equipment that enhances our ability to train for in-demand occupations in the advanced manufacturing sector.”

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*Northwest State Community College is an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education that has served northwest Ohio since 1969. Northwest State is committed to providing a quality, affordable education with personal attention and small class sizes. The College offers associate degrees with numerous transfer options, short-term certificate programs, and workforce training programs designed to meet the needs of local businesses and industries. For more information, visit NorthwestState.edu or call 419.267.5511.*