

APPENDIX L. ALBANY-DOUGHERTY INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE CASE STUDY

The Albany-Dougherty Industry Roundtable recently partnered with Albany Technical College to develop a training program to ensure that area employers can find the talent they need to be successful. The roundtable is made up of major manufacturers and employers in Albany, Georgia, and is facilitated by the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission and the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. Industry leaders identified a need to develop a training program that can teach the fundamental skills and knowledge required to succeed in a manufacturing or industrial position and further strengthen the talent base in the region. Business leaders found that some area residents were interested in manufacturing jobs but did not possess the skills now required for entry-level positions.

The roundtable worked with Albany Technical College to develop the curriculum and build a program that will meet the talent needs of major employers. The Industrial Operations Technician (IOT) Technical Certificate of Credit is a two-semester program that will teach soft skills, Lean Six Sigma, industrial mechanics, and operations management. The program will prepare graduates to succeed in entry-level positions with manufacturing, distribution, logistics, and other related industries in the region. Employers also plan to use the IOT program as an opportunity to upskill their current employees and provide them with continuing education. Justin Strickland, president of the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission, said, “The IOT program is a great example of our manufacturers working together to identify an issue and develop a solution that is a win for industry, employees, and the community.”

