

# is here to help.

Centergy is an organization comprising business and civic leaders, working together to address our region's workforce, business and community development needs. We serve as a central resource, bringing together the efforts of many entities, and providing a unified voice to be heard by our state and local governments and the greater business community.

Our work continues, to encourage business sector development, support local businesses, attract new businesses, achieve growth for our higher education facilities, and improve life in general for all central Wisconsin residents.

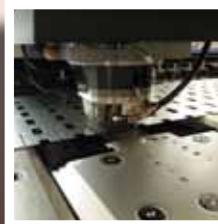
Our focus areas:

**Advanced Manufacturing**

**Bio Energy / Agriculture**

**Medical Science**

**Entrepreneurship**



Central Wisconsin...

# Manufacturing driven by next-generation sciences fueled by a skilled workforce.



## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS



**CENTERGY**

Central WI Alliance for Economic Development

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**CENTERGY**

Life. Science. Connecting to Tomorrow.

# Educated, skilled workforce.

With several UW campuses and technical colleges in our region, employers have access to an available, capable working population that embraces a strong work ethic. Emerging technologies are pioneered and applied in our region. Educational partners provide collaborative research, learning programs and services to facilitate development and adoption of sustainable technologies and practices.

## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

**Mid-State Technical College (MSTC)** actively participates in the Wisconsin Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant process to provide training focused on upgrading the skills and productivity of employees. The broader objective is to support regional workforce and economic development efforts. One example is the college's partnership with Ocean Spray Cranberries of Wisconsin Rapids. MSTC received a WAT grant to upgrade the skills of workers at the Wisconsin Rapids cranberry processing plant. New workforce skills were required to fully realize the benefits of \$75 million in capital improvements for production expansion, the largest capital investment the company has made in a manufacturing facility. The training from MSTC was essential to Ocean Spray's growth. The Ocean Spray – MSTC partnership has helped Ocean Spray grow through improved productivity and become more globally competitive. "This was a collaboration of business, education and government working together and resulting in highly-desirable outcomes. It's a great example of how things can and should work," said Dr. John Clark, MSTC President.

**Northcentral Technical College (NTC)** focuses on expanding and developing the natural assets and resources in our District. By creating educational programs and instructional services that are geographically located adjacent to regional economic assets, the College positions itself to provide value added services in support of local manufacturers, stimulating economic development. This approach ensures the College is well positioned to respond to local business needs.

After a discussion with local manufacturing and engineering firms in 2006, the College recognized a need for enhanced educational opportunities in advanced manufacturing. By partnering with UW-Stout, local students can now earn a two-year associate degree in Mechanical Design Technology from NTC and complete their education by earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Technology from UW-Stout on the NTC Wausau Campus. With the addition of integrated coursework in advanced manufacturing and lean principles, NTC is preparing students for the manufacturing jobs of the future.

Utilizing an integrated approach to providing education in renewable energy practices, NTC will help to build a highly skilled workforce through the addition of a Smart Home Learning Laboratory. After being approached by K-tech Kleening Systems, Inc., the College began dialog to develop a Smart Home of the future to be located at NTC's Agriculture Center of Excellence. The home will offer new and continuing education opportunities in rural energy, sustainability and renewable energy technologies, encouraging job competitiveness in advancing technologies. Students from a variety of programs such as agriculture, information technology, biology and science, HVAC, residential building, residential design, and natural resources, as well as area businesses, will be able to train at the Smart Home.

NTC is committed to collaborating with local communities, businesses, educational institutions and government to aid in the economic development of our region and ensure a highly skilled workforce. Through continuing education opportunities, customized training and professional development opportunities, NTC is a lifelong partner for local businesses seeking to maintain a competitive edge in today's global marketplace.

**University of Wisconsin – Marathon County (UWMC)** provides students with the freshman and sophomore foundation courses to enter into any baccalaureate degree program including those in the medical sciences, bio-energy and engineering fields. UWMC has a collaborative arrangement with UW-Platteville to provide a bachelor's degree in engineering at the UWMC campus. UWMC's Office of Continuing Education aids in regional economic development by responding to employer and employee needs for continuing education through short courses and seminars. Approved continuing education hours are provided for many professionals. In collaboration with UW-River Falls a Master's of Science in Education degree is offered in a weekend program for area teachers.

**University of Wisconsin – Marshfield/Wood County** provides Central Wisconsin businesses and residents opportunities for economic and personal growth. We offer customized training for businesses, as well as economic impact studies to help businesses take advantage of market opportunities. Our FastTrack degree program has expanded education access for working adults. In addition to the Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degrees in Engineering, American Studies in the Global Economy and Nursing are available via our collaborative degree programs with UW-Stevens Point, UW-Platteville and UW-Eau Claire, respectively. We also offer a Master's Degree in education through UW-River Falls. Our Continuing Education Outreach and E-Learning programs offer several degree programs, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Management.

**University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP)** supports advanced manufacturing in Central Wisconsin through applied research in manufacturing process technologies. Chief among these is geographic information systems (GIS). UWSP's GIS Center has landed significant federal funding to assist regional business and governments in various marketing, planning, and resource management opportunities.

UWSP recently launched the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) to provide regional business and government the knowledge to innovate manufacturing and resource management with the latest applications of green technology. One of the first projects within WIST is the advancement of a biodiesel refining process with wood cellulose, an abundant and renewable Central Wisconsin resource, as its source.

The university continues its advancement in health professional education, most recently with the introduction of a nursing degree completion program. Further, UWSP leads Wisconsin's regional universities in the number of graduates who go on to earn research doctorates.

UWSP contributes to the region's economic development through its research, its diverse arts and cultural programming, and as one of Central Wisconsin's largest employers.



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