



Gwinnett-Based Electronics Workforce Alliance Receives Funding from Atlanta CareerRise *Pilot Program to Support Electronics Assembly Training*

WINNETT-ATLANTA (March 27, 2014) Atlanta CareerRise has awarded \$63,000 in funding to the Electronics Workforce Alliance, a Gwinnett-based partnership of employers, as well as education and training providers seeking to prepare the unemployed for entry into careers in electronic soldering, assembly and repair, and to advance existing workers to higher levels of industry certification.

The Electronics Workforce Alliance (EWA) pilot program will create a pathway for unemployed individuals to acquire and develop the necessary skills to be hired into full-time electronics assembly positions with participating employers. Existing employees of participating companies will also be eligible for additional training and credentials that advances them to higher credentials, leading to promotions and wage increases.

The project is led by I-Tech Staffing in Norcross, the designated trainer for the pilot project. Partners providing services in the project include Gwinnett Technical College, the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board, and Goodwill of North Georgia. In addition to I-Tech, participating companies include Hire Dynamics, Sienna Corporation, MyAirBags, and others. The project is projected to provide multiple credentials to at least 24 individuals and ESL classes to another 24 individuals.

“We are excited about this program as it meets a critical need of the region’s electronics manufacturing firms for skilled employees,” said Santa Ho, Vice President of Business Development at I-Tech Staffing. “This partnership enables us to increase the skills of the local workforce while helping individuals enter and advance in careers that pay family-sustaining wages.”

“This program embodies the model of workforce development Atlanta CareerRise is bringing to the Metro Atlanta region,” noted Cinda Herndon-King, CareerRise Director. “It was developed in direct response to the needs of employers for frontline talent, and is aligned with the economic development priorities of the local area. This makes it a win for the employers, individual workers, and the community at large.”

The County’s community and economic development initiative, Partnership Gwinnett, facilitated the initial introduction of the project partners and has played a key role in the effort to bring the program to fruition.

“Gwinnett County is home to almost half the electronics manufacturing jobs in the state of Georgia, which makes this industry a vital part of our community,” stated Troels Adrian, Senior Project Manager for Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management for Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development and Partnership Gwinnett. “We are proud to have been involved with this initiative since its inception, and are delighted that it offers Gwinnett companies the opportunity to fill open positions with skilled employees.”

Unemployed individuals who complete the program will receive training in basic soldering, and complete training leading to IPC-610 and IPC-J-Standard credentials. In addition, they will receive coaching during the training and after employment to help successfully manage their transition and address issues that may impede success in their career.

Incumbent employees of partner companies will be able to obtain the industry-recognized IPC-J-Standard and IPC-7711 credentials. In addition, English as Second Language (ESL) classes developed with an electronics context will be offered through participating employers.

The pilot will result in a model program that can be extended to additional skill training, occupations, and employers. The program was developed through planning support and technical assistance from Atlanta CareerRise.

About Atlanta CareerRise

Atlanta CareerRise benefits the community, employers and the underemployed by creating employer-led workforce partnerships to train employees and applicants for middle-skill careers in high-growth industries. This provides employers with well-trained, more productive personnel; moves employees into jobs with a sustainable living wage; and benefits the community by reducing the need for social services and increasing the tax base. Atlanta CareerRise, regional funders collaborative managed by the United Way of Greater Atlanta and supported by investments from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions and eight local funding partners, implements a nationally-recognized model of workforce development in the 13-county Greater Atlanta region. For more information visit www.atlantacareerrise.org

About I-Tech Staffing

The I-TECH Group is comprised of two companies which focus on providing seamless service and support to the Electronics Manufacturing and Repair Industry, while creating a platform for the local workforce. I-TECH Staffing is a full service recruiting, training and placement company helping to provide employees for temp-to-hire, project driven/seasonal assignments and direct placement for the office support, clerical, customer services, AP/AR as well as light industrial for manufacturing/production and warehouse. I-TECH has always operated under the principle that "Our product is our people" and has never turned down the opportunity to engage in a need of the local community, which is why I-TECH is a proud participant of the EWA pilot training program. I-TECH's dedication to quality, on-time delivery and unrivaled capabilities has kept I-TECH in the forefront of the staffing and electronic manufacturing industry.

About Partnership Gwinnett

Partnership Gwinnett is Gwinnett's economic and community development initiative. Led by the Gwinnett Chamber and a host of public and private partners, the initiative targets the retention and expansion of existing Gwinnett businesses in addition to the development of new business in five key market segments: Information & Technology Solutions; Health Sciences & Services; Headquarters & Professional Services; Supply Chain Management; and Advanced Manufacturing. The ultimate goal is to promote comprehensive economic development, increase education and workforce excellence, and support community and leadership development for the entire Gwinnett community. For more information on Partnership Gwinnett, the internationally award-winning community and economic development initiative, please visit www.partnershipgwinnett.com.

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