

Build Iowa's Future Design Challenge

Iowa Dream and Design Challenge: Pella High School Students Grades 9-12

Feedback From Pella, IA Community Leaders on the Project Impact and Viability of a Proposed New Advanced Manufacturing Lab in the High School

Mr. Doug Hundt- President, Industrial at Vermeer Corporation

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- As a company that does business in more than 100 countries and employs over 3000 team members locally, Vermeer utilizes advanced manufacturing technologies to design and manufacture world-class innovative premium products. The advanced manufacturing lab would be very beneficial to our region as it would provide students firsthand experiences and knowledge in advanced manufacturing education. In addition, advanced technologies such as 3D design, robotics, automation, computerized machining, and digital / analytics are very important to our success and Vermeer's future. The advanced manufacturing lab would be a catalyst for the education and development of the future workforce. The lab will give students exposure to career opportunities in advanced manufacturing as an option for their future education and career choices beyond high school. Our local and state economy is highly dependent on advanced manufacturing and the lab is an innovative approach to strengthen our future.

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- Vermeer believes the advanced manufacturing lab is not only viable but very exciting as a leading, innovative education tool to equip students for exciting careers in advanced manufacturing!

Mr. Don DeWaard - Mayor of the City of Pella, IA

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- Bring more awareness of manufacturing to our students.
- Enhance the ability of our local businesses to recruit new workers.
- Help new employees be better prepared to fill manufacturing jobs.

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- The Career Academy has been a great success in other areas, so there is no doubt the advanced manufacturing addition will be not only viable but extremely successful.

Mrs. Teri Vos - Director, Work-Based Learning, Marion County, IA

(WorkSMARTConnector.org)

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- An advanced manufacturing lab is in direct alignment with student registered apprenticeship opportunities, accommodating the required technical instruction for student entry into an apprenticeship. These apprenticeships are preparing students for local, high-demand careers such as those in manufacturing.
- Marion County ranks in the top 2% of US counties for the percentage of jobs in manufacturing, with over 7,500 manufacturing jobs in a county of just over 33,000 people. There is a significant need for growth in the manufacturing workforce, which relies on training and preparation to effectively begin in a high school advanced manufacturing lab.
- There is significant misperception and a lack of knowledge of manufacturing careers. An advanced manufacturing class would provide accurate perceptions and educate young people on the new and exciting "face" of manufacturing.
- In summary, Marion County needs new and innovative training models to prepare young people to meet the 807-person gap between 1,113 open positions and 306 unemployment claims in Marion County. An advanced manufacturing lab in high school would help meet that significant need and launch students into high-paying, fulfilling full-time employment.

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- There is significant support for this project from local employers, educational systems, State officials, and economic developers alike, who are willing to contribute time, energy, and resources to see it to success. The Career Academy of Pella has already proven itself innovative and exceedingly capable of preparing the future workforce, largely due to its dedicated leadership and incredibly bright student participants. I truly believe that if the high school "builds it, students will come" to these engaging, hands-on learning opportunities, and the careers that follow.

Mrs. Ami Burns - Outreach Manager at Vermeer Corporation

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- This is a great way to showcase local opportunities to students! Students can learn about advanced manufacturing and potentially participate in work-based learning opportunities at the many businesses in Marion county. This can help students affirm their next steps after high school and/or eliminate a step if they find it's not what they thought. We need students to stay in our area and fill our many roles.
- Advanced technologies are very important to our success and our future.

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- Vermeer believes this project is exciting, critical to our future, and an innovative way to educate students in the area.

Mr. Kevin Gaul - Director of Operations at Pella Corporation

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- While there are many benefits, I would point to two. 1) Providing much greater visibility to what Advanced Manufacturing is, what career possibilities are out there, what skills are required, and the benefits of a career in that area. This visibility would be for students, parents, and the broader community. 2) Providing training in the actual skills needed for key Advanced Mfg processes to help prepare students to hit the ground running in these types of roles. This will help our local manufacturing businesses get/stay competitive and continue to provide great jobs to the residents of the Pella area.

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- This is a very viable project. I would expect broad support from our major local manufacturers, and also support from a State of Iowa perspective. Within the past two years, Governor Reynolds directed the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Innovation Council to develop a set of strategies to help push advanced manufacturing forward within the state, to make Iowa a leader in the United States. The strategy document is available at www.iowamfg.com

Mr. Jerry Byers - Building Official for the City of Pella, IA

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- It will allow local businesses to hire job-ready students directly from the school. Or prepare these students to continue their education so they can come back and become part of the community.
- It will allow students to determine if they wish to go into manufacturing without wasting local businesses' time or resources
- It will help keep local manufacturing ... stay local.
- It will strengthen our community by keeping young adults in the community

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- To stay competitive in this market it needs to be done.

Mr. Adam Beckel - Principal of Pella High School/Career Academy

1. In what ways do you feel the addition of the advanced manufacturing lab/class will impact local businesses?

- It will help provide a more highly skilled workforce
- Increased productivity and efficiency

2. What are your thoughts on the viability of this project?

- Let's get it done