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14 Scholarships Awarded for Advanced Manufacturing Training Across Iowa

August 18, 2020, Des Moines, Iowa – Elevate Advanced Manufacturing, a non-profit initiative spreading the word about career opportunities in advanced manufacturing, has awarded 14 \$500 scholarships to recent Iowa high school graduates entering a manufacturing-related course of study at one of Iowa’s 15 community colleges.

Advanced manufacturing provides a wide range of high-paying and in-demand careers. Manufacturing companies are in the top-third of employers in the state of Iowa, providing 222,628 jobs to Iowans and representing 14.4% of the state’s total employment. With innovative advances in technology, robotics, and augmented and virtual reality, the manufacturing industry continues to grow, providing new and exciting career opportunities for Iowans.

A career in manufacturing empowers individuals to join the workforce sooner, with less debt. “These well-paying careers require education and training beyond high school, but often don’t require the burdensome cost of a bachelor’s degree,” says Mike Ralston, president of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry. “Recent studies have shown that two-year degree holders, especially in high-demand manufacturing occupations, can earn salaries that surpass those of four-year college graduates.”

Examples of scholarship-eligible training programs include Robotics, Welding, Mechanical Drafting (CADD), Transportation and Logistics, Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Machining, Industrial Automation, Industrial Maintenance, and Tool and Die.

In addition to a \$500 scholarship, Elevate Advanced Manufacturing scholarship recipients and their families will be honored at the Legends in Manufacturing Award Ceremony in fall 2021.

The 2020 awardees are:

1. Brayton Chesnut, Creston High School– Southwestern Community College
2. Gage O’Connor, Ankeny High School – Iowa Western Community College
3. Mitchel Bender, Burlington High School – Southeastern Community College
4. Shane Moffitt, Emmetsburg High School – Iowa Lakes Community College
5. Ethan Molitor, Mason City Alternative High School – North Iowa Area Community College
6. Garrett Rottinghaus, Union High School – Hawkeye Community College
7. Cole Mobley, Diagonal High School – Indian Hills Community College
8. Dallas Hageman, Ft. Atkinson High School – Northeast Community College
9. Alex Tipps, Louisa Muscatine High School – Eastern Iowa Community College
10. Kale Euans, South Winneshiek High School – Kirkwood Community College



11. Dawson Evers, Denison High School – Des Moines Area Community College
12. Gabriel Bennett, Spencer High School– Northwest Community College
13. Draven Rasmussen, Eagle Grove High School – Iowa Central Community College
14. Nathan Mallory, Washington High School – Western Iowa Tech Community College

For more information about manufacturing careers, visit www.elevateiowa.com.

Elevate Iowa (www.elevateiowa.com) is a statewide, integrated marketing campaign to promote careers and educational pathways in advanced manufacturing. The initiative is directed by a coalition of all 15 Iowa community colleges, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, the private manufacturing sector and the State of Iowa. Elevate Iowa offers resources to the public and educational institutions to educate unemployed/underemployed Iowans and U.S. veterans, along with K-12 students and their families, about opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

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