



Lifting Futures

Lifting Futures is the GE Aerospace Foundation's flagship workforce skills program, designed to help train the advanced manufacturing workforce needed across the aerospace industry.

\$30M

multi-year workforce program

10,000

workers trained by 2030

5

inaugural communities

What

A philanthropic effort to train 10,000 workers with the skills needed for the aerospace manufacturing industry by 2030.

Why

The workforce challenge is particularly acute in aerospace, driven by waves of coming retirements and four times as many new workers compared to manufacturing overall, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Where

The five inaugural communities were selected for their strong potential, existing momentum, and ability to scale impact with additional courses, equipment, and resources to improve graduation and job placement.

Our Commitment

Close the advanced manufacturing labor gap, strengthen communities, and generate knowledge that can inform future workforce efforts.

Investment Focus

- Reduce barriers to training programs.
- Expand capacity, including additional courses and equipment, that enables training programs to enroll more students.
- Increase resources and services students need to graduate and start jobs.

Inspiring the next generation of aerospace talent, together.

Learn more at LiftingFutures.org



Auburn-Montgomery

The Opportunity

The I-85 corridor from Auburn-Opelika to Montgomery is one of Alabama's strongest manufacturing regions, anchored by aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing. Lifting Futures is building pathways for new and existing workers to enter manufacturing careers.

\$1M

commitment to the community

3

local community partners

400+

workers trained in inaugural year

What We Heard

"Students deserve accurate information, real opportunities, and a chance to change their future. When students have the right knowledge and guidance, they're not just choosing programs, they are choosing careers." — Dr. Eric Sewell, Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Development, Southern Union State Community College

Lifting Futures met with educational institutions, training providers, and industry leaders across the Auburn-Montgomery region to identify opportunities for collaboration. Four themes emerged that helped define the focus:

- Low career awareness, especially for Advanced Manufacturing and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) careers.
- Worker readiness gaps, as employers need workers with stronger, more durable workplace skills.
- Completion barriers, including transportation, childcare, and financial pressures that keep students from finishing training.
- Limited coordination between education and industry.

How We're Responding with Community Partners

Lifting Futures is working with community partners to expand training capacity, improve program completion, and strengthen career pathways into aerospace and advanced manufacturing.



Southern Union State Community College

Manufacturing bootcamp training, career counseling, program expansion, and emergency financial assistance. Will also procure training equipment.



Industrial Development Board of the City of Auburn, AL

Awareness of no-cost training and industry coordination to strengthen retention in aerospace and advanced manufacturing careers across the Auburn-Opelika region.



Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

Career awareness to expand Montgomery's manufacturing pipeline for an expected increase of available manufacturing jobs.

**Building the workforce.
Lifting the community.**

Learn more at LiftingFutures.org

