

# INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY THEY WORK

Industry Sector Partnerships are a proven workforce development strategy that put employers in the driver's seat and have demonstrated effectiveness across the country. Manufacturers within a regional labor market work together to influence alignment around common solutions with education and training, economic and workforce development, and community organizations.

## EFFECTIVE INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS:

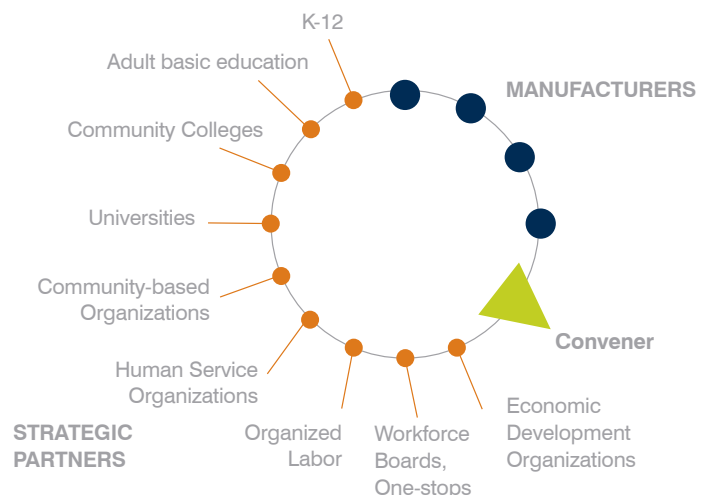
- **Identify common issues**, challenges and opportunities across individual employers;
- **Collectively** address the priority needs of industry;
- **Communicate industry priorities** to policy makers and workforce development partners, enabling them to design responsive solutions;
- Address current and emerging **skill gaps**, both short- and long-term;
- Provide a means to engage directly with industry **across traditional boundaries**;
- **Better align** programs, education/training curriculum and other resources serving employers and workers.

## KEY COMPONENTS:

- **Led by employers** – to ensure the system is truly demand-driven and will lead to better outcomes for individuals
- **Focused on a single industry** – to allow employers to connect with peers from their own industry, identify needs beyond basic workplace skills, and dive deeply into the technical needs of the industry
- **Regional** – to address unique needs of subsectors while reflecting the true dynamics within a regional economy
- **Convened by a neutral intermediary** – to align all relevant partner programs and resources as solutions to identified industry needs

## BENEFITS TO MANUFACTURERS:

- Systems change in response to business needs
- Reduced duplication and system inefficiencies
- Maximized resources and services
- Results in more streamlined services
- Helps manufacturers fill jobs more quickly
- Creates a pipeline of future workers
- Builds career pathways with seamless transitions from one educational stepping stone to another
- More powerful voice
- Influence training programs
- Impact policy
- Attract funding
- Mechanism for ongoing feedback loop with various education, training and workforce programs
- Better results (placement, earnings/benefits, retention, productivity)
- Firm-to-firm networking



From the National Governors Association report:  
State Sector Strategies Coming of Age: Implications for State Workforce Policymakers