

Centers of Workforce Innovation | End of Year Report Outs (Year 3 | FY25)

Quick recap

The Center of Workforce Innovation for Manufacturing and Supply Chain Logistics presented their end-of-year performance report, highlighting various educational and training initiatives across multiple institutions. Partnerships between colleges and industry leaders were discussed, including successful programs in advanced manufacturing, supply chain logistics, and robotics education, with emphasis on experiential learning opportunities and stackable credentials. The conversation ended with presentations on transportation and logistics initiatives, including a CDL owner-operator certificate program and 3D printing pathway project, all aimed at preparing students for careers in these growing industries.

Next steps

- [☒ Sussex County Community College to launch the CDL owner-operator program in fall 2026 after receiving approval from the Academic Issues Committee .](#)
- [☒ Camden County College and Hudson County Community College to assess their non-credit Trucking Business Academy program for Prior Learning Assessment opportunities within existing degree options after the pilot completion.](#)
- [☒ African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey to lead the annual Driven by Success COI meeting for networking, policy discussions, and collaboration around workforce development in the transportation industry.](#)
- [☒ Driven by Success team to develop quarterly professional development sessions for instructors and staff focusing on inclusive instruction, entrepreneurship, and real-world challenges faced by owner-operators.](#)
- [☒ Driven by Success team to create a mentorship speaker bureau composed of alumni and professional mentors to speak in classrooms and at community events.](#)
- [☒ All CDL Owner-Operator Certificate Pathway Project partners to participate in the Trucking Industry Summit scheduled for Friday, October 24th.](#)

- [Elizabeth's colleague to register for the Center of Workforce Innovation communications after being forwarded the meeting invite.](#)
- [Kevin and Conrad to continue developing the articulation between non-credit and credit pathways for the 3D printing curriculum in Year 4.](#)

Summary

Manufacturing Workforce Education Framework

The Center of Workforce Innovation for Manufacturing and Supply Chain Logistics presented their end-of-year performance report, highlighting a comprehensive advanced manufacturing stackable degree program. Dr. Courtney Bolden from Rowan College of South Jersey detailed a four-part framework that includes partnerships with four high schools, two community colleges, and industry partners, resulting in various stackable credentials and pathways from high school through bachelor's degree. The program has successfully provided scholarships for boot camps and hands-on training in areas like robotics, CNC machining, and quality control, with lessons learned emphasizing the need for proper preparation of both credit and non-credit students.

Essex-Grainger Partnership Success Story

The meeting discussed the success of a partnership between Essex County College and Grainger, focusing on experiential learning opportunities for students. Germaine highlighted the implementation of the Keep Stock Inventory Management Platform in the Supply Chain 219 class, which provided students with real-world experience in inventory tracking and management. Lisa shared that UCNJ took advantage of this relationship by bringing students to Grainger's Elizabeth branch for tours and Q&A sessions with representatives, including a government account representative and a senior account manager. The partnership resulted in 10 credit students passing the Six Sigma certification, and several students secured jobs at Grainger and other companies, including a high-paying position for a non-credit student.

Robotics Education Collaboration Expansion

Tom presented on a collaborative project between County College of Morris and Essex County College to develop robotics and automation education programs, including SACA certifications and boot camps. The initiative has expanded to include partnerships with high schools, offering both credit and non-credit pathways for students interested in robotics and automation careers. Tom highlighted the success of the program in attracting students and employers, while noting the need for further development of industry expectations and

outcomes. The project has resulted in broader collaboration between institutions and the creation of professional development opportunities for educators.

CDL Owner-Operator Certificate Pathway

Kaina presented on the CDL Owner-Operator Certificate Pathway Project, highlighting the development of a 30-credit certificate program at Sussex County Community College and a non-credit Trucking Business Academy at Camden and Hudson County Colleges. The program aims to prepare minority, women, and veteran truck drivers to become owner-operators, with Sussex planning to launch their program in fall 2026. Kevin and Conrad discussed the success of the 3D Printing Pathway Project, which included outreach to high schools, non-credit training, and curriculum development. The project has seen positive results with students gaining valuable skills and experiencing successful career outcomes.