Top Legislative Priorities

Workforce Development

Equipment manufacturers need a pipeline of skilled labor to close the skills gap, create more family-sustaining jobs, and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the whole industry.

Our Position

Our industry is facing a shortage of skilled workers both on the manufacturing floor and among those who service and repair equipment. In order to meet these current and future workforce needs, we must ensure that federal policies encourage students to pursue career and technical education and provide the resources necessary to develop and expand federally supported workforce development programs.

Policy Priorities

AEM supports legislative and regulatory solutions to help attract, train, and retain workers, especially those from traditionally underrepresented populations.

AEM continues to support efforts to expand Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality short term programs, include workforce development provisions in infrastructure reauthorization legislation, grow apprenticeship opportunities, expand tax credits for employers that provide training to employees, and provide workers that have been displaced or are underemployed as a result of the ongoing pandemic with access to skills based education.

AEM also advocates for reauthorization and expansion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) at the beginning of the 117th Congress. WIOA authorizes important programs that help provide education and training to job seekers and connects workers with employers. As the number of displaced workers continues to grow in addition to the increasing number of jobs that require additional skillsets, it is imperative that WIOA funding be increased to meet current and future needs. AEM also supports the expansion of WIOA programs to provide broader access to programs and additional supports so that barriers like childcare and transportation costs don’t prevent individuals from attaining skills and credentials.

Why Does Workforce Development Matter to the Manufacturing Sector?

In the next decade, 2.4 million manufacturing jobs will go unfilled due to a shortage of skilled workers.

Equipment manufacturers support 12% of all U.S. manufacturing sector jobs

Our industry raises over 2.8 million equipment manufacturing jobs supported across all 50 states

The U.S. equipment manufacturing industry generates roughly $288 billion a year to our economy

The average income of a job in equipment manufacturing is 35% above the national average

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