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 workers and develop highly sought-after skillsets through the expansion of federal programs.

AEM continues to support efforts to expand Pell Grant eligibility, include workforce development provisions in infrastructure reauthorization legislation, and grow apprenticeship opportunities through the U.S. Department of Labor’s Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program.

AEM also advocates for the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which is set to expire at the end of 2020. WIOA authorizes appropriations and programs that help provide education and training to job seekers and connect workers with employers.

Why Does Workforce Development Matter to the Manufacturing Sector?

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