IPC EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

Creating More than One Million Education and Workforce Opportunities for American Students and Workers in the Next Five Years

One of the most difficult challenges facing today’s electronics industry is a chronic shortage of adequately skilled workers. By 2025, it is expected that two million manufacturing jobs will go unfilled. The emerging workforce lacks essential industry skills including math, problem solving, technical training and computer skills.

IPC is tackling this skills gap for the electronics industry by making unprecedented investments in its education, training and workforce programs. Over the next five years, IPC will make a multimillion-dollar investment in its training, education and workforce programs, including initiatives that are foundational to our industry. For example, IPC is conducting a jobs task analysis (JTA) that will identify the knowledge, skills and abilities for every role within the electronic industry. This JTA will empower the industry to design scalable, stackable education and training programs to address the workforce shortage and upskill talented employees.

IPC is also relaunching the IPC Education Foundation, which will support educational opportunities for students beginning in high school extending through their university educations.

IPC will create more than one million new education, training and career opportunities in the U.S. electronics industry over the next five years.

Creating One Million Education & Workforce Opportunities Over the Next Five Years

IPC is working with its members to invest resources in four main areas:

- Training & Credentials
- STEM Programming
- Earn & Learn Programs
- New Jobs
IPC training and certification plays a key role in bringing value to the electronics industry. Our training and certification programs are designed according to IPC standards that were developed and approved by industry.

In the United States there are 46 training facilities and over 4,600 trainers who train and test to IPC standards for the electronics industry. Based on certification history, growth and new programs, IPC projects this training to increase significantly in the United States. This growth will be achieved by:

- Leveraging the IPC Jobs Task Analysis to ensure better alignment between our credentialing programs and industry needs;
- Expanding IPC’s credential offerings for underserved areas of the industry and creating entry level pathways for new talent; and
- Providing increased educational opportunities through IPC Edge, IPC’s new online education platform.

Current CTE & STEM curriculums in secondary and post-secondary education lack the resources and tools to provide students with the education and training needed for a career in the electronics industry. To build a stronger workforce pipeline, IPC is seeking to prepare students for positions in the electronics industry even before high school graduation. IPC, through its Foundation, will be investing more than $5 million over the next five years to provide curriculum tools, resources and industry-recognized credentials. Industry-cognized credentials include IPC industry badges, pre-certifications and certifications.

Many of these students will pursue degrees in higher education before entering the industry, but the training we are providing will provide pathways to careers upon graduation from high school, community colleges and universities by allowing them to earn IPC industry badges, pre-certifications and certifications that are critical to employment in electronics manufacturing facilities.

IPC is working with its members to create new earn-and-learn opportunities. IPC is in the process of establishing a network of relationships with universities and community colleges that will host IPC student chapters. Students who belong to these chapters will have unprecedented access to industry training programs, mentoring, scholarships and earn-and-learn opportunities. We already have commitments from companies to support earn-and-learn students within their own companies.
In recent years, the electronics industry has experienced double digit annualized growth, resulting in robust job growth. Unfortunately, many of those jobs are going unfilled. IPC estimates that, today, there are more than 10,000 vacancies in the electronics industry. IPC expects sustained growth as U.S. companies expand their domestic manufacturing operations to hedge against global uncertainties and to invest in the U.S. electronics supply chain facilities.

The electronics industry is at the heart of many technological innovations that are improving our lives, creating jobs, and propelling the economy forward. However, the growth of the electronics sector is constrained by the difficulty of finding, attracting and retaining skilled workers.

We, the undersigned companies, are investing our time and resources in IPC’s education and training initiatives to create at least one million new education, training and workforce development opportunities in the United States over the next five years through IPC’s education and workforce efforts that include: the JTAC, Earn and Learn programs, STEM programming, the IPC Education Foundation, and an IPC Certified Workforce.

In working with IPC, our vision is to develop a much larger, much better trained pool of talent for our companies and life-enriching opportunities for our employees.

Signed,

IPC Workforce Champions