

**Testimony of:**  
**Mike Meroney, on behalf of the Texas Association of Manufacturers**  
**Commission on Community College Finance**  
**September 12, 2022 – Texas Capitol, E1.010**

Thank you, Chairman Hunt and committee members. My name is Mike Meroney on behalf of the Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM). Our trade association represents more than 600 manufacturing companies, including many of the largest employers operating across Texas.

First, we offer thanks to the Commission and THECB for all the hard work on this complicated issue. Broadly, manufacturers are very encouraged by a new state funding model based on outcomes: credentials of value; high-demand fields, and transfers to universities. We'd like to suggest one other measurable outcome to consider: **job placement**. This meaningful result would further facilitate collaboration with industry partners for the benefit of students AND employers. We look forward to providing input on the specific details of the forthcoming funding formula.

Second, regarding paid **work-based learning**, manufacturers fully support leveraging federal funding to help supplement paid work-study placement, internships, practicums, apprenticeships; and we look forward to engaging manufacturers with the THECB and then individual IHEs.

Third, regarding seed grants for short-term workforce programs, manufacturers urge a cautious approach on this topic. While many community colleges excel at workforce training, continuing education, industry-based certifications and career & technical education... other community colleges who *do not* have the expertise should strongly consider partnering with *THE recognized experts* in technical and workforce training: **Texas State Technical College (TSTC)**. And manufacturers are encouraged by the recommendation to facilitate shared services and stronger inter-institutional partnerships for better efficiency and effectiveness across and between colleges.

Finally, manufacturers support non-credit programs that are convertible and stackable alongside credit-bearing programs/degrees, and support a **state crosswalk** process to improve transferability.

Again, thank you to the commission for all the hard work, and rest assured that the members of the Texas Association of Manufacturers stand ready to assist and engage at the Texas Legislature.