Workforce Issuance

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100 DCS 05.178   ☐ **Policy**   ☑ **Information**

To: Chief Elected Officials
                    MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
                    MassHire Workforce Board Directors
                    MassHire Career Center Directors
                    MassHire Fiscal Officers
                    MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
                    MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: March 6, 2023

Subject: **Key Digital Literacy Resources Available**

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Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and
                    other local workforce partners of key digital literacy resources available for
                    workforce practitioners to prepare workers seeking employment.

Background: The Workforce System Strategies community features 14 resources relating to
                    digital literacy. Among the most relevant resources are those related to the
                    growing demand for strong digital literacy and critical thinking skills, digital
                    literacy and technology integration in adult basic skills education, and
                    understanding how to prepare the workforce for an advanced manufacturing
                    workforce using robotics.

                    The New Landscape of Digital Literacy
                    The U.S. labor market reflects a growing demand for workers across industries to
                    have strong digital literacy and critical thinking skills. Using data from a rigorous

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assessment to analyze workers' current level of digital skills, this report provides a breakdown of the differing skills among workers in major industries, occupations, and worker demographic categories. Key steps to consider for the changing landscape include investing in new Digital Literacy Upskilling grants to expand access to high-quality digital skills instruction that meets industry and worker needs and incentivizing existing tax policies.

[Digital Literacy and Technology Integration in Adult Basic Skills Education Review of the Research](#)
Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills. This research brief describes how to strategically integrate and support digital technologies in adult basic education settings and highlights gaps in the research. Successful technology implementation requires changes beyond instructional practices and classroom procedures. The recommended programmatic actions include partnerships with other agencies to provide additional opportunities to integrate technology outside of the classroom and effective professional development to help teachers with technology integration.

[How Can the United States Prepare a Workforce for Advanced Manufacturing Using Robotics?](#)
Industry experts expect additional job opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing (AM) as large numbers of existing workers retire and advancing technologies, such as robotics, create demand for new positions. To assist workers and employers in preparing for this shift, the researchers conducted an impact analysis and addressed the following questions related to preparing a robotics-ready AM workforce: (1) What is the economic context of AM using robotics?; (2) How are current education and training programs preparing people to work with robots in AM; and (3) What practices might improve these programs and their desirable outcomes, such as a job-ready workforce? The researchers recommended an emphasis on nontechnical, "21st-century" skills and the invitation of more employers to the table via intermediary organizations and services.

Requested Action: Please share with managers, staff, and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately