The Manufacturing and Information Technology (IT) industries are changing rapidly due to innovation. As Nebraska businesses compete in a fast-paced, global economy, workforce demands continue to grow. Connecting young Nebraskans to learning opportunities in these fields can play an important role in their decision to build their careers in our state. Exposing this next generation of leaders to the advanced skills and knowledge required in these industries encourages an expanding workforce to help Grow Nebraska.

The Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative designed to support an industry-defined approach to develop a youth talent pipeline. Proposed by Governor Ricketts and approved by the legislature in 2015, the initiative requires collaboration between Nebraska businesses and public schools to expose and excite student interest within the Manufacturing and IT industries. Grant recipients will partner with schools to engage students to participate in hands-on career exploration and relevant workplace learning opportunities. The programs will target students beginning in the seventh and eighth grades and will demonstrate sustainability and measurable impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEBRASKA DEVELOPING YOUTH TALENT INVESTMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16 Hollman Media, Kearney</td>
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<td>2015-16 Flowserve, Hastings</td>
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<td>2016-17 Distefano, Omaha</td>
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<td>2016-17 MetalQuest, Hebron</td>
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<td>2017-18 Aulick, Scottsbluff</td>
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<td>2017-18 B-D, Broken Bow</td>
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<td>2017-18 Cyclonaire, York</td>
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<td>TOTAL INVESTMENT</td>
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**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicant must be a business in either the manufacturing or information technology sector, or business with high number of IT occupations
- Target audience is 7th and 8th grade student participation in hands-on career exploration and exposure to their industry occupations
- Preference given consortium of businesses, with one being designated as lead
- Must work in collaboration with public schools to design and implement program
- Letters of support from all participating entities
- Factors to consider:
  - Impact
  - Sustainability
  - Area need
  - Clear goals and outcomes
  - Evaluation plan
  - 3rd party evaluator
  - Budget
  - Timeline
“Hiring and retaining employees is a challenge in IT. The industry continues to experience tremendous growth with no end in sight. Simply put, supply is constantly chasing the demand to fill positions. Nebraska is no exception. In fact, the IT industry thrives in Nebraska, but struggles to fill all available positions from homegrown talent alone. A talent pipeline is needed. Schools and government alone cannot create enough interest in IT to fulfill tomorrow’s needs. We must, as an industry, partner with these entities to drive interest and engagement in IT. We must solve the problem together. The NDYTI gives businesses like Hollman Media the opportunity to creatively build a talent pipeline to the future. Because of it, we were able to build a new relationship with Kearney Public Schools that continues today. The feedback we are getting from the students is that they just didn’t understand IT prior to our partnership with KPS. Now the Kearney students look at IT differently and with an open mind. They have a real interest in considering it as a career opportunity. Getting students to understand what IT really is, and getting them interested in it is the first step in creating the talent pipeline to the future.”

Travis Hollman, President/Managing Member
Hollman Media, LLC

“At Aulick Industries, we are thrilled to be a part of the Developing Youth Talent Initiative. Allowing students and teachers the opportunity to tour our facilities to see how machines work will spark their interest in manufacturing, how we use information technology to make it all work together, and give them the opportunity to come into our facility and build something they could design and create. All of this exposure will encourage and excite them to be part of the manufacturing future and put a refocus back on the industry side of business.”

Vinc Aulick, President/Owner
Aulick Industries

“Four years ago the Hastings Area Manufactures Association (HAMA) partnered with Hastings Public School and Central Community College to create a Manufacturing Career Pathway to provide high school students an opportunity to develop the skills necessary for career opportunities in manufacturing. It became evident early on we needed to focus some of our efforts to create interest in these careers at an age younger than high school. In 2015 HAMA applied for and received a Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI) grant to modernize and upgrade the Science and Technical Skills curriculum and equipment at the middle school level. The results of these efforts was increased interest in and enrollment in STS classes for the 2016/17 school year. This interest continues today and is allowing manufacturers the opportunity to build relationships with future employees at the middle school and high school levels. This is a win/win for everyone. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the DYTI program and are grateful for the opportunities it creates for our area students.”

Bob Wilson, Director, General Manager
Flowserve Corporation