

## A Digital Lab to Assist Small and Medium Manufacturers

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	RESULTS
Manufacturers must increasingly rely on digital technology to remain competitive in the realm of modern supply chains. But small and medium manufacturers have made little to no progress adopting digital technology, and they provide 140,000 jobs in the Milwaukee region. This issue puts 20% of those jobs at risk over the next 30 years.	Investing \$657,000 will create the first digital adoption lab in southeast Wisconsin designed for small and medium manufacturers. This experiential learning facility will be housed within UWM's Connected Systems Institute and educate traditional college students, current manufacturing employees who need upskilling, and people who are unemployed or under-employed.	The labs will train at least 60 people every year for the next five years, and that number can grow through partnerships with other agencies. In addition, small and medium manufacturing companies will get an important leg up in the race to remain competitive in the marketplace, adding an extra layer of security for their workforce and the region's broader economy.



UWM's Connected Systems Institute (CSI) has become a key tool in training students and employees alike to prepare for the future of digital manufacturing. World-class faculty members and industry partners collaborate on research that supports the development of advanced manufacturing processes. This includes the Industrial Internet of Things, factory automation and implementing Industry 4.0 solutions. A new Digital Adoption Lab will allow CSI to better train students and employees at small and medium manufacturers on the types of new equipment they'll encounter as industry modernizes.

