



WHAT IS THE AIM HIGHER CONSORTIUM?

The AIM Higher Consortium is a wide-ranging program funded by the Department of Defense with the goal of strengthening the defense supply chain in the Greater Pittsburgh region of Southwest Pennsylvania and West Virginia. AIM Higher focuses on the exploration and adoption of advanced manufacturing technology such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, and more.

WHY DOES IT EXIST?

The defense industry is of course critical to national security, but with \$265 billion (\$12+ billion in PA/WV) in supplies and equipment spending in 2018*, it is also a major engine of the manufacturing economy across the United States. With the cyclical nature of defense program spending, it is vital that support is available for defense suppliers to modernize, improve efficiencies, and strengthen the workforce to remain strong companies in their regional economies.

WHAT DOES AIM HIGHER DO?

AIM Higher exists to support small and medium manufacturers who are currently working in the Defense manufacturing supply chain or are actively pursuing opportunities in the DoD space. The consortium is developing tools to provide guidance in modernization, connection with resources and DoD supply opportunities, workforce training in advanced technologies, and financial programs to secure capital and offset costs.

WHO FORMS AIM HIGHER?

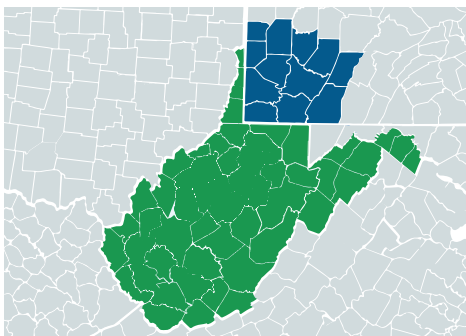
AIM Higher is led by Catalyst Connection with over 30 academic, economic development, technology institute, and manufacturing partners from around the region. (see reverse side for current list)

HOW DOES MY COMPANY BENEFIT?

Manufacturers like you can receive no-cost technical assistance on a wide range of advanced material and technology topics. A mini-grant program is also available to partially offset the cost of your next technology project. Free access to an asset map and supplier capabilities database will connect you with critical resources and DoD opportunities.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

A manufacturer in SWPA/WV (see reverse side for county list) should complete the AIM Higher Self-Assessment on the program webpage. You will be contacted by Catalyst Connection or another AIM Higher part-ner for an introductory discussion to identify ways to get engaged with AIM Higher.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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catalystconnection.org/grants-other-cost-saving-programs/aimhigher/

*Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation — Defense Spending by State, FY 2018 Report

[†]You may also contact any economic/workforce development AIM Higher Consortium Partner as noted in the following table.



AIM HIGHER CONSORTIUM TEAM

AIM HIGHER PARTNERS	
America Makes	Concurrent Technologies Corp
ARM Institute	IN-2-Market
Carnegie Mellon University	Innovation Works
Catalyst Connection	JARI
Robert Morris University	New Century Careers
University of Pittsburgh	TechConnectWV
West Virginia University/WV MEP	Robert C. Byrd Institute at Marshall University (RCBI)

AIM HIGHER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS	
Belleflex Technologies	Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Community College of Allegheny County	Stellar Precision Components
Community College of Beaver County	Sustainable Strategies
ExOne	Southwest Corner WDB
JWF Industries	The Barnes Global Advisors / Neighborhood 91
Mecco Marking and Traceability	TEAM Consortium
Metal Solutions	Tri County WDB
Partner4 Work	Tronix3D
RE Squared (RE2)	Universal Stainless
Schmidt Presses	XPER, Inc.

ELIGIBLE COUNTIES FOR THE AIM HIGHER PROGRAM

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland

WEST VIRGINIA: All Counties