



NextFlex Abstract – Training & Recruitment Accelerated Innovation Network (TRAIN Ohio)

TRAIN Ohio (Training & Recruitment Accelerated Innovation Network of Ohio) is a program launched by Lorain County Community College (LCCC) that builds on existing collaboration with manufacturing companies in the region involved with microelectronic assemblies and flexible hybrid electronics (FHE), SMART Microsystems, Team NEO, which leads the Smart Devices and Systems cluster, the University Of Akron College Of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, and other workforce and education partners. **TRAIN Ohio** is designed to meet the talent needs for our region's advanced manufacturing industries with a special focus on small to medium innovation companies who are part of the front line of adoption of Flexible Hybrid Electronics (FHE), microelectronic manufacturing, and microelectronic mechanical systems (MEMS) sensor fabrication technology and processes in our region.

The program blends school and work into a 21st century "earn and learn" hybrid activity where companies and educators integrate activities in real time. A pilot of **TRAIN Ohio** launched in the Fall of 2016, and second cohort is being recruited for Fall 2017. Participating employers help shape curricular content, and host paid work experiences for students. Following successful completion of their first year, students take a full-time course load while participating in class 2 days per week and engaging in paid work-based learning at a sponsor company 3 days per week.

LCCC partners with companies such as RBB, Nano BioSystems, Synapse Biomedical, IEC Infrared Systems, and SMART Microsystems to interview and select students. The NextFlex investment will assist in scaling and sustaining this collaborative program through the expansion of employer and educational partners. Primary objectives that will be met with **TRAIN Ohio** include: filling the talent pipeline of small and medium businesses, increasing enrollment in and completion of programs tied to highly technical in-demand careers, decreasing education-related student debt, and increasing interest in advanced manufacturing as a career.



Photo: TRAIN Ohio & LCCC MicroElectronic Mechanical Systems (MEMS) students learn to use thermosonic wire bonders for wire bonding 0.001" diameter gold wire.