



## Western Maryland Works Makerspace

### FACILITY

- 30,000-square foot adaptive space purchased by Allegany County in 2018, former site of Economy Wholesale Co. Warehouse.
- Original MOU signed between Allegany County and Allegany College of Maryland in 2020. Revised MOU signed in June 2021.
- ACM began offering training at site in 2020.
- ACM has invested more than \$73,000 in renovations and office furnishings valued at \$40,293.
- Dedicated lab space for advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, industrial maintenance, machining, robotics, welding, and woodworking.
- Five classrooms and five offices.
- State-of-the-art technology and equipment:
  - Academia 50 3D Scanner
  - Axiom Elite CNC Router
  - CNC Plasma Cutter
  - Forest Scientific Fab Bot CNC
  - Roland BT12 Garment Printer, Roland LEF-200 UV Printer, Roland SG2-300 Printer
  - Robotics arm and I-Pendants
  - Stratasys J55 and F370 3D Printers
  - Universal Laser System

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Serves more than 10 rural and underserved communities in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.
- Aids in the creation and retention of high-quality jobs.
- Expands training and course availability for individuals seeking workforce development training:
  - To date, 110 participants have received training at the Makerspace through ACM since 2020.
  - Training programs offered through ACM's Career and Employer Solutions program continue to have waitlists.
  - 100 individuals are expected to annually participate in trainings and courses, in post-COVID-19 times.
- Augments class offerings for community members of all ages:
  - Plans for STEM-focused kids camp.
  - Partnership with Allegany County Public Schools to provide design engineering/CAD and BIM training.
  - Plans for forklift and scissorlift training.
  - Continuing Education classes for community members interested in building skills and accessing available resources.
  - Plans to expand welding certifications to include pipe welding.
  - Plans to open the Makerspace to the public in January 2022.
  - Plans to offer an associate of applied science degree in engineering-automated manufacturing engineering in fall 2022.

## VERSO RETRAINING PROGRAM

- Nearly 70 dislocated workers elected to enroll in ACM's Career and Employer Solutions program's industrial maintenance, machining, and welding classes at the Makerspace through the Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development.
- ACM staff have been instrumental in helping those students, from assisting participants as they navigated their state's dislocated worker programs to arranging per diem for participants traveling two to three hours daily to the Makerspace on top of their 30-40 hour/week training schedule.
- Following the March shutdown in 2020, programs reopened in June 2020 with strict COVID protocols in place, and multiple shifts. ACM proceeded to **lead the country** in the number of participants go through the NIMS skills credentialing process.
- 20-22 participants found employment and/or completed training with us, taking positions with American Woodmark, Automated Packaging Systems, ClosetMaid, Garrett County Roads Department, Garrett Container Systems, Maryland Department of Corrections, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Mineral County Public Works, National Jet, Northrop Grumman, Pilgrim's Pride, Sierra Hygiene Products, WebRestaurant, and West Virginia Division of Forestry.
- Majority of the current 53 Verso participants (roughly 60%) will complete their training in December. The remainder will finish in their training in March 2022.
- These participants have been working on their training alongside non-Verso participants.

## QUOTE

*"We're grateful to be part of the many partnerships that make the Makerspace possible. When we were approached by the County to provide educational services at the site, it was clear that this would be an incredible undertaking. To us, the Western Maryland Works Makerspace expands opportunities for our community through the power of education. It was there for our community in one of its most challenging times: the closing of the Verso Luke Mill. I'm proud of the hard work of our ACM staff who've supported these workers. They're not just helping them rebuild their lives during an incredibly difficult time; they're strengthening their families and our greater community."* – Dr. Cynthia Bambara, ACM President