ANNUAL
REPORT
2017-2018
PLANNING &
PRE-OPERATING PHASE

NORTHLAND WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER

683 NORTHLAND AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14211
NORTHLANDWTC.ORG
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THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.
The Economic Development Group, Inc. (EDG) is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation with lead members - Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA), Buffalo Urban League (BUL), Catholic Charities of Buffalo (CCB) and Goodwill Industries of Western New York (Goodwill). In 2016, EDG was named the operator for the Northland Workforce Training Center. EDG is grounded in the members’ expertise in manufacturing and industry workforce development and training. The member organizations’ have more than 300 combined years of experience in participant outreach, recruitment, assessment, training, supportive services and successful job placement. Current EDG corporation members are Peter Coleman, Executive Director, BNMA, Brenda McDuffie, President & CEO, BUL, Dennis Walczyzh, President & CEO, CCB and Thomas Lynch, President & CEO, Goodwill.

NORTHLAND WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER
Northland Workforce Training Center (NWTC) is operated by EDG, under contract with Empire State Development, New York State’s primary economic development agency, and is the signature workforce development initiative under Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Buffalo Billion. NWTC is an industry-driven, public-private partnership between employers, educational institutions, community and faith based organizations and state and local government focused on closing the skills gap of the local labor pool and creating economic on ramps to training, co-ops, internships, apprenticeships, and permanent employment for Western New Yorkers seeking high paying advanced manufacturing and energy careers.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

BRENDA MCDUFFIE
President & CEO, Buffalo Urban League
“Northland Workforce Training Center is one of the best investments that will prepare individuals for careers in the manufacturing and energy sectors to respond to the current and future needs of businesses”.

DENNIS C. WALCZYK
Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Buffalo
“Much like the Center being a dream realized for Buffalo, it is our hope that many will find their own dreams become realities at Northland. We want students to know, and truly believe, that they can achieve success here because we offer services beyond the classroom. It’s not just education and training at Northland - it’s case management, it’s wrap-around services, it’s guidance and support to elevate them in all facets of their lives.”

THOMAS LYNCH
President & CEO, Goodwill of Western New York
“Goodwill is proud to be part of the Northland Workforce Training Center. Our role is to connect students with advanced manufacturing companies, placing them in good paying jobs in a growing industry. We’re encouraged by the support this initiative has received and look forward to being part of the thriving manufacturing center at Northland.”

PETER COLEMAN
Executive Director, BNMA
“The BNMA is excited to be the leading industry partner at Northland. Our members are very excited to meet and employ the talent that will be developed by both SUNY Erie and Alfred State. Mr. Tucker and the Northland team have created a game changing solution for the Manufacturing and Energy sectors workforce needs.”
I am excited to serve as the inaugural President & CEO of Northland Workforce Training Center. As Governor Andrew Cuomo’s signature workforce initiative under the Buffalo Billion, Northland Workforce Training Center (NWTC) is an industry driven public-private partnership between employers, educational institutions, community and faith based organizations and state and local government focused on closing the skills gap of the local labor pool and creating economic on-ramps and opportunities for Western New Yorkers seeking high paying advanced manufacturing and energy careers.

Our vision is to be the premiere model of a public/private partnership providing education, training and workforce development services that are industry driven and employment focused. Our mission is to advance the economic well-being of the Western New York Region by developing and maintaining a skilled and diverse workforce to meet the needs of the advanced manufacturing and energy sectors, while providing opportunities to job seekers as well as pathways to gainful employment, career advancement and economic sustainability.

Northland will house two state of the art co-located training facilities: an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center and a Utility of the Future & Clean Energy Training Center, located at 683 Northland Avenue on Buffalo’s East Side.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was a successful one as we laid the foundation for the organization by executing several strategies identified in our business plan. These strategies include, executing memoranda’s of understandings and contracts with educational partners and community based organizations, creating and launching a successful branding and marketing campaign and procuring goods and services necessary to operate the center. We also hired and on boarded key staff and began our outreach and recruiting efforts to ensure a successful launch of the center in September 2018.

The framework for this comprehensive training approach was developed by the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, and this project is a game changer with the capability of transforming Buffalo’s East Side. I would like to thank Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Byron Brown for their vision and support of this project as well as Empire State Development, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation, New York State Power Authority, and National Grid for their financial contributions.

Stephen D. Tucker
President & CEO
“Northland Workforce Training Center will accelerate the redevelopment of Buffalo’s East Side and prepare the next generation for the jobs powering Western New York’s revitalization. This project is part of our administration’s ongoing efforts to grow Buffalo’s economy and will continue to generate opportunity for residents and businesses in the region for years to come.”

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

Northland Workforce Training Center is operated by the Economic Development Group, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.