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For Immediate Release

**BotsIQ and Arconic Foundation Partner to Deliver Online Manufacturing Training Curriculum to 750 High School Students**

Strengthening Students' Technical Knowledge and Skills to Prepare for Future Careers

PITTSBURGH (August 28, 2018) – Starting this fall, participating southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ high school students will not only be introduced to manufacturing and STEM careers but also be given opportunities to formally complete coursework related to specific industry competencies. Utilizing Tooling U-SME, an online manufacturing platform employed by thousands of manufacturers and over 600 educational facilities across the United States, BotsIQ Academy will be provided to every participating student at no cost.

BotsIQ Academy will provide participating teachers and students access to an online manufacturing training curriculum that aligns with industry standards and certifications. Courses were selected by a committee comprised of BotsIQ staff and teachers, regional manufacturers, workforce investment boards, post-secondary training representatives, and Tooling U-SME representatives. BotsIQ Academy will offer students a variety of classes, including applied mathematics, robotics, additive manufacturing, materials, and mechanical and electrical systems. Students will also develop specific competencies that can be used in the workforce. Teachers and students will be introduced to the curriculum at Teacher Professional Development Day in September.

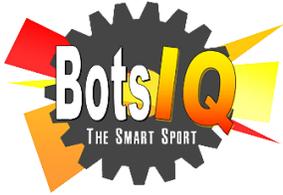
“After receiving insightful feedback from last year’s participants, BotsIQ wanted to provide our students with more opportunities. Through BotsIQ Academy, we look forward to strengthening our students’ technical knowledge and skills and increase their understanding of manufacturing careers,” BotsIQ executive director Michel Conklin said. “To better support student learning, BotsIQ staff and teachers will be able to monitor students’ progress and success of each module through the online educational technology software.”

Once a student successfully finishes a class, he/she will receive a certificate of completion. Students will also have the potential for advanced placement in future testing or post-secondary coursework.

Initial funding for this project is provided by a grant from Arconic Foundation. “BotsIQ Academy builds upon BotsIQ’s already rich student experience with industry-recognized skill development and certifications,” said Natalie Tessier, General Manager at Arconic’s Kawneer Cranberry facility. “Arconic Foundation is honored to support BotsIQ in their work to prepare the next generation of the manufacturing workforce.”

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[www.botsiqpa.org](http://www.botsiqpa.org)



When surveyed, 88% of current BotsIQ students expressed interest in or planned to explore a manufacturing or STEM-related career. More than 70% of participants plan to continue their education in a trade training program, apprenticeship program, or two-or four-year degree program. With the addition of BotsIQ Academy, students will begin their training in high school and transition easily to a training or education program with some coursework completed.

For more information about SWPA BotsIQ, visit [www.botsiqpa.org](http://www.botsiqpa.org).

***About Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ***

*Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ is a manufacturing workforce development program of the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The program is affiliated with the National Robotics League and is managed by New Century Careers. Faced with an aging manufacturing workforce, The Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) spearheaded efforts to bring a national student robotics program to the region. Local manufacturers and educators joined forces to launch BotsIQ with just six schools in 2005. SWPA BotsIQ is 10 times its original size and boasts its own fan base and alumni returning to lend support as volunteers. More than 5,000 students have participated in the program since its inception.*

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