



September 9, 2022

For Immediate Release

Contact: Rick Szabrak, 740-652-7162 / rick.szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.Gov

The Fairfield County Workforce Center to partner with Ohio University, Hocking College in Appalachian Semiconductor Education and Technical (ASCENT) Ecosystem through Intel grant funding

Coalition will collaborate to create pathways for increased student learning, workforce development in support of state's growing semiconductor industry

(Carroll, OH) — The Fairfield County Workforce Center will partner with Ohio University Lancaster and Hocking College in the Appalachian Semiconductor Education and Technical (ASCENT) Ecosystem through grant funding awarded by Intel to lead institution Ohio University. The ASCENT program will create an inclusive workforce development and training program to cultivate the next generation of skilled technical professionals for Ohio's emerging semiconductor industry.

The funding is part of the [Intel® Semiconductor Education and Research Program for Ohio](#) that was announced today in conjunction with Intel's groundbreaking ceremony for its leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing plant in New Albany, Ohio.

Over the next three years, ASCENT will collaboratively develop and deliver diverse educational options across the region, including stackable certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's and graduate degrees that prepare students for career opportunities created by Intel's arrival to Ohio.

"Intel's investment in the state's higher educational institutions is game changing," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "Advanced manufacturing jobs like those in the semiconductor industry are exciting and rewarding. The Workforce Center's Engineering Technology programs provide the skills needed to pursue these career opportunities and we're honored to be a part of training future employees in this field."

The ASCENT program will be led by Ohio University and comprised of a broad coalition of eight other institutions, colleges and technical centers across the southeastern Appalachian region of Ohio. Each will play a vital role in the visualization, delivery and programming of the overall ASCENT Ecosystem.

Eight proposals were selected from leading Ohio institutions, including Ohio University. Each proposal includes collaborative efforts with other higher education institutions, representing more than 80 institutions across the state of Ohio. In total, the eight leading Ohio institutions will receive \$17.7 million in funding over a three-year period.

Intel expects this first iteration of the program to produce nearly 9,000 graduates for the industry and provide more than 2,300 scholarships over three years helping diversify the talent pipeline.

"Intel is excited to be in Ohio, the new Silicon Heartland and home to what will be one of our most sophisticated semiconductor manufacturing plants in the world," said Jim Evers, Intel Vice President and Ohio General



Manager. “Higher education plays a key role in the future success of our industry. We’re proud to support these institutions from every corner of the state as they work to build the workforce of tomorrow.”

Intel’s Semiconductor Education and Research Program for Ohio was announced in March as part of the company’s pledge to invest \$100 million in education and research collaborations with universities, community colleges and technical educators in Ohio and across the U.S. The program is designed to help build a pipeline of talent and bolster research programs. Of its \$100 million investment, Intel designated \$50 million specifically to Ohio colleges and universities.

About the Fairfield County Workforce Center

The Fairfield County Workforce Center provides certificate-based and degree-bearing programs in Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare, and other in-demand career fields. The facility, owned and operated by the Fairfield County Commissioners, is located at 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll, OH 43112. The County has partnered with Ohio University and Hocking College to offer training to adults and high school seniors to develop career skills in these high growth industries. For more information, visit FairfieldCountyWorkforce.com.

About Intel

Intel (Nasdaq: INTC) is an industry leader, creating world-changing technology that enables global progress and enriches lives. Inspired by Moore’s Law, we continuously work to advance the design and manufacturing of semiconductors to help address our customers’ greatest challenges. By embedding intelligence in the cloud, network, edge and every kind of computing device, we unleash the potential of data to transform business and society for the better. To learn more about Intel’s innovations, go to newsroom.intel.com and intel.com. © Intel Corporation. Intel, the Intel logo and other Intel marks are trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries.

###