

WRTP Timeline

1992

Commission on a Quality Workforce - chaired by Milwaukee business leader Carl Weigell - recommends the development of partnerships between business, labor, and Government Governor Tommy Thompson, Weigell, and other business, labor, and local government leaders hold a press conference to announce the formation of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership for manufacturing in the Milwaukee area.

1993

WRTP convenes conferences for 19 charter member companies and unions to develop objectives for the organization and establish three work groups on modernization, worker training, and recruitment strategies. WRTP steering committee reviews recommendations for action from the working groups and approves a strategic plan for the organization by the end of the year.

1994

WRTP implements recommendations for action: manufacturing extension program for small businesses, youth apprenticeship program for manufacturing, pilot project on pre-employment training for disadvantaged workers, and best practices in workplace education and training.

1995

WRTP conducts needs assessment of manufacturers and unions throughout the Milwaukee metro area, and expands the number of members in the partnership.

1996

WRTP plays key role in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's multi-year grant to the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative, a partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Committee, AFL-CIO, and community leaders. WRTP incorporates as a non-profit organization to become eligible for funding from the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative and other funding sources

1997

WRTP expands upon pilot project to develop our nationally recognized model of workforce development in manufacturing WRTP

1998

WRTP surpasses its first-year goal of placing 100 community residents into family sustaining jobs in manufacturing for MJ I.

1999

WRTP develops employee retention strategies as mentoring networks, OJT training systems, and positive attendance workshops for MJ I.

2000

WRTP is awarded a demonstration grant from the US Department of Labor to expand our model in manufacturing and replicate it in other sectors of the regional economy.

2001

WRTP invests in the redevelopment of the BIG STEP apprenticeship test preparation program for construction, and becomes its fiscal agent.

2002

WRTP completes agreements and understandings with workforce boards, technical colleges, and community partners in the metro area.

2003

WRTP is recruited from short list of national leaders in workforce development by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to participate in a national evaluation study, the Sector Employment Impact Study.

2004

WRTP is chosen by the Greater Milwaukee Committee, AFL-CIO, and community leaders to sustain the legacy of the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative.

2005

WRTP and BIG STEP launch the Center of Excellence to provide a central clearinghouse for assessing, preparing, and placing candidates for skilled trades and industries.

2006

WRTP acquires a 30,000sf facility to expand the Center of Excellence.