OUR GOAL

The goal of the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Fellowship (PA-MAF) is to support business continuity planning for small and medium-sized manufacturers in the region and provide experiential learning opportunities for graduate students at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

This short, intense, project-based learning experience enables students to develop and enhance their problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills.

BENEFITS TO THE CLIENT

• Deliver support for business continuity planning from Katz and Swanson School of Engineering graduate students.

• Offer actionable recommendations and deliverables relevant to current business needs.

• Provide first-hand work with university talent, opening door for potential hires.

With funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Catalyst Connection—a local non-profit economic development organization—is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business to address two critical needs for our community: helping our graduate students gain meaningful work experience during a time when many internships are being rescinded due to the global pandemic, and helping advanced manufacturers in southwestern Pennsylvania recover from the COVID-19 crisis and lead a regional economic rebound. Connecting these two valuable assets in our region may have long lasting positive impacts well beyond the pandemic recovery period.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

“My experience on the PA-MAF project with SKC, Inc. was extremely rewarding. Through the program and Catalyst Connection, I received invaluable real-world experience and coaching in the art of consulting. Without this hands-on experience, I would not have been able to develop my soft skills, such as useful informational interview techniques and interfacing with the client. My PA-MAF project pushed me out of my comfort zone in such a way that I grew exponentially from the experience and all of the valuable lessons I learned along the way.”

MATTHEW BONIDIE | MBA/MS Engineering

PETRA MITCHELL | CEO Catalyst Connection