

# PENNSYLVANIA ROBOTICS AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

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University of  
Pittsburgh

Joseph M. Katz  
Graduate School of Business

# PA-RTF

*Catalyst Connection & Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business*

- *Built on the Pennsylvania - Manufacturing Advisory Fellowship (PA-MAF);*
- *Result of federal funding to the Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative*
- *27 projects to be run over next 3 years*
  - *Focused on SMEs*
    - *Robotics, technology, advanced manufacturing*



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# Catalyst Connection

- **Mission** is to advance the performance of manufacturing companies in Southwestern Pennsylvania by accelerating their growth and productivity improvements
- Private, Not-for-profit
  - Dedicated to serving small to medium sized manufacturers (SMMs)
  - Located in Hazelwood Green Mill 19
- 4 areas of expertise
  - Consulting Services
  - Technology Services
  - Training & Events
  - Workforce Development
- Supporting over 2700+ manufacturing establishments and 86,000+ active workers



# Program Structure



- Short Intense Projects
  - 6-8 weeks in length
    - *Determined by client needs*
- Approx. 4 Students per project
- 2 Immediate Opportunities
  - Spring 2 (March 20 start)
  - Summer 1 (May 8)
  - *Additional opportunities throughout AY 2023-24*
- Guided by experienced coach/mentor
- Not for academic credit



# Student Expectations

- **From Students:**

- Commit to project
- Represent yourself and Pitt
- Recognize input has an impact
- 8-12 hours of effort per week
  - Includes client meeting(s), coach meeting(s), team meetings and individual expectations
  - Additional synchronous and/or asynchronous workshops may be required
- Complete all required feedback and learning assessments

- **For Students**

- Professional experience and skill building
  - Including in robotics, autonomy and advanced manufacturing industries
- Networking opportunities
- Stipend = \$2,000 (before taxes)



# Payment and Authorization

- Must be a current Pitt student (not open to recent graduates)
- Students do NOT:
  - Have to apply for CPT
  - Need to participate in an independent study/internship course
  - Need any special authorization from OIS
- You will receive a one-time taxable stipend for your completion of the project (\$2000)
  - Instructions regarding payment processes will be shared to selected students



# Course Outcome



“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**



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# Application Process

- Application posted online
  - Now open
  - Submit resume and *thoughtful* reply to short answers
- Selected students will be notified prior to start of Spring 2 term
  - First Deadline: March 2
  - Selection notification: By March 9
  - Deadline to accept offer: March 13



**QUESTIONS?**



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