

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
- Opportunities begin:
 - Fall 2 – October 23
 - *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



Program Outcome



“I had no prior experience of manufacturing industry but I successfully leveraged many transferable skills in this project. This project gave me an opportunity to apply classroom learnings and use my past experience to deliver a solution. Being a member of a team in which everyone has different strengths, I learned to utilize them to be successful.”

Spring 2023 PA-RTF participant

“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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The Student Experience

- Eisenwood
 - Process improvement research
 - Leverage technology to improve production management and job tracking



Application Process

- Application posted online
 - Now open
 - Submit resume and *thoughtful* reply to short answers
- Selected students will be notified prior to start of Fall 2 term
 - First Deadline: September 25
 - Selection notification: By October 9
 - Deadline to accept offer: October 16



QUESTIONS?



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