

ATTRACT. DEVELOP. RETAIN.

Partners in Progress

Forging Pathways to Workforce Success

August 25, 2026



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHAT WE'LL COVER

Session Overview



Why Partnerships Matter

How employer collaboration drives workforce development



Collaborative Models That Work

Proven structures for building talent pipelines together



Case Study: Responsive Solutions

Equitable, future-focused programs in action



Practical Strategies

Ideas you can replicate at your organization



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SECTION ONE

Setting the Stage

Why workforce partnerships matter, right now



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Connecting People, Skills, and Opportunities



Employer Partnership

Waubonsee partners with employers to build workforce capacity through training solutions tailored to each organization's specific goals and challenges.



Co-Developed Programs

Close collaboration means programs are co-developed to strengthen internal talent pipelines, address skill gaps, and support long-term growth.



Flexible Delivery

On-site, online, and hands-on formats ensure training is accessible, relevant, and immediately applicable.



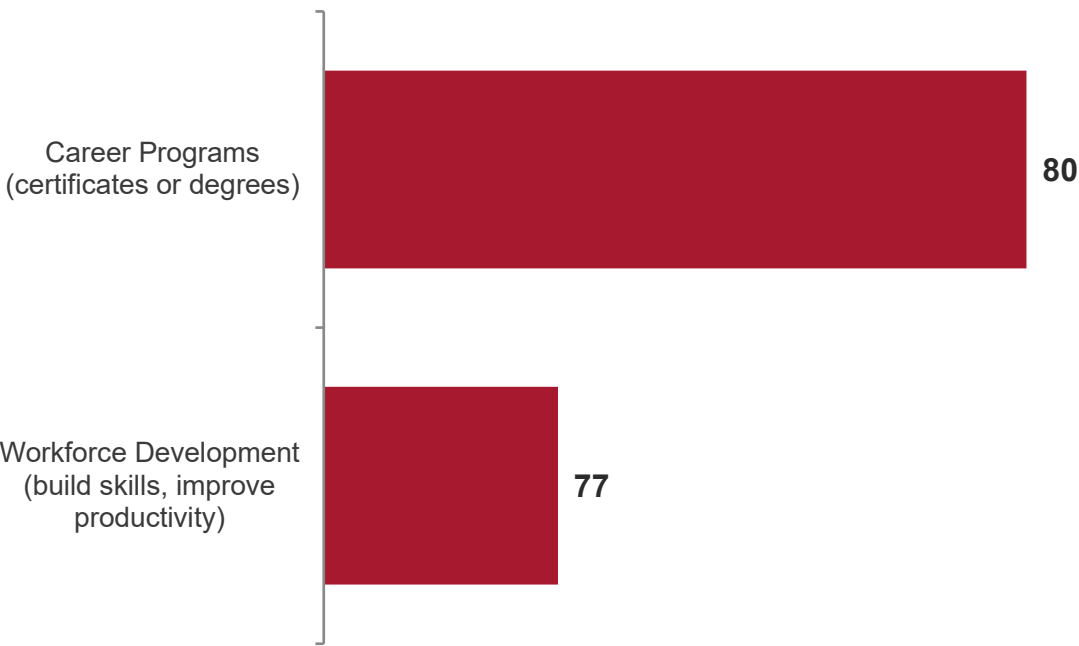
Aligned with Strategy

By aligning learning with business strategy, employers grow stronger teams, increase efficiency, and stay competitive.

Program Development Targeted to Local Needs

Just-in-time solutions built to address emerging community needs.

Importance to Role / Mission



Enrollment Demand



Labor Market Demand & Projected Growth



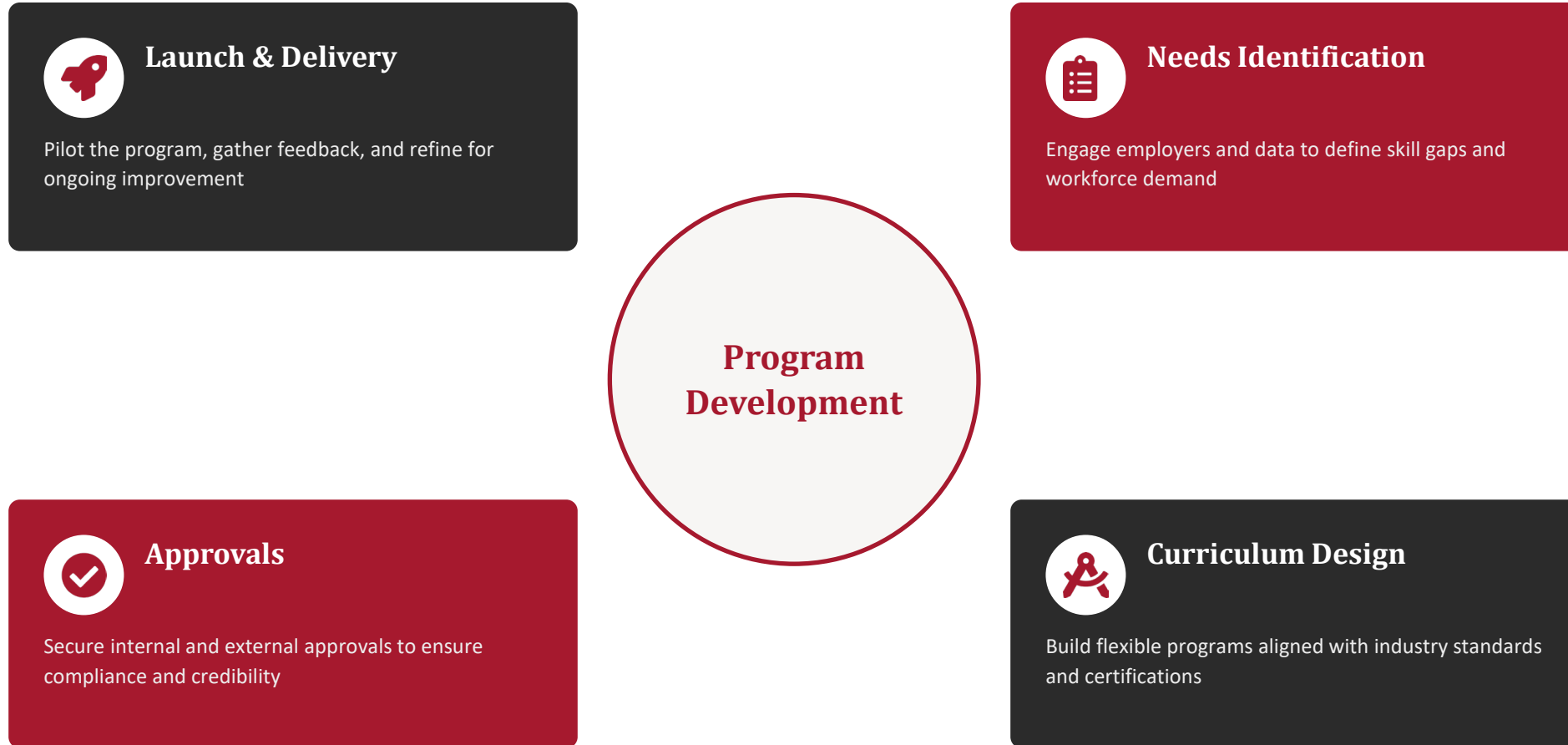
Secondary Partnerships



Industry Partnerships



Program Development



Industry-Aligned Workforce Solutions

STANDARDS WAUBONSEE UPHOLDS

NIMS

Machining, CNC, Measurement, Maintenance

SACA

Industry 4.0: Automation, Robotics, Digital Integration

AWS

Welding Safety, Quality, Performance

THE VALUE OF CREDENTIALS



Validate Competencies

Standards created by industry, for industry



Ensure Job Readiness

Employers trust credentials as proof of skills



Guide Curriculum

Programs aligned so students graduate with portable, verifiable credentials



New Programs Launched Fall 2025



Industrial Maintenance

Waubonsee's first micro-credentialing initiative, built around nationally recognized SACA credentials. Offers stackable, skills-based certifications so learners build competencies quickly and move into high-demand maintenance and automation roles.



Wastewater / Water Technology Certificate

Created with industry stakeholders and supported by an NSF grant. A one-year hybrid program with hands-on training, college credit, and preparation for Illinois EPA certification — building a pipeline for an essential, rapidly evolving field.

SUCCESS STORY

"Skills to Build"

Workplace Learning Opportunities

IL Manufacturing Excellence Center Grant Partnership



Employer-based English Language Acquisition classes



Manufacturing-based learning opportunities for 16–
24 year olds



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Why Workforce Partnerships Matter

1

Talent Pipeline

Access to job-ready graduates and upskilled workers

2

Customized Training

Programs aligned with employer needs

3

Shared Resources

Labs, equipment, faculty, and subject matter expertise

4

Equity and Access

Reaching all learners in the community

5

Mutual Impact

Stronger workforce, stronger community





SECTION TWO

Turning Vision Into Reality

Practical strategies you can put to work today



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Questions?

Let's talk about how this could work for your team



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Thank You

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