The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program is one of the US Department of Commerce’s main initiatives to support job creation and accelerate manufacturing growth to make communities more globally competitive by transforming their industrial ecosystems into globally-competitive manufacturing hubs. IMCP does this through the support of long-term community-based economic development strategies designed to attract and expand private investment in manufacturing and promote international trade and exports.

The Northwest Georgia region was selected for one of 26 first-round Commerce awards made across the country in 2013. The award enabled the development of an Advanced Manufacturing Strategy initially focused on the region’s established Floor Covering industry.

In May 2014, the Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Consortium was awarded the “Manufacturing Community” designation by EDA. This is a two-year designation (May 2016).
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING STRATEGY

Creating the strategy has allowed Northwest Georgia to have an open and honest dialogue about the future of advanced manufacturing in the region, and in the process, created a unique partnership - manufacturers, suppliers, industry partners, elected officials, and leaders in education and infrastructure, among others. Current IMCP initiatives include:

- **Export and trade assistance for manufacturers:** Working with Georgia Ports Authority to develop an inland port for the region, and highway expansions to support key manufacturing corridors
- **Support for new technologies:** Alliance for Innovation and Sustainability Manufacturers Forum
- **Preparing a pipeline of ready and skilled labor:** Advanced Manufacturing career-based courses at Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy and Georgia Northwestern Technical College

VISION: The Northwest Georgia Regional Advanced Manufacturing Strategy will create:

“A world class manufacturing workforce cultivating a culture of talent and innovation in a vibrant and diverse region.”

MISSION: Create economic prosperity in Northwest Georgia to ensure the region’s future as a global leader in the floor covering industry and to foster the environment for advanced manufacturing to grow and thrive.

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

IMCP is helping Northwest Georgia cultivate the environment for highly skilled, well-paying advanced manufacturing jobs in the region’s solid manufacturing base by transforming the region’s industrial ecosystem. The newly-formed Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Consortium will lead this effort and support these primary funding tools to implement the Northwest Georgia IMCP project:

- **Infrastructure, Trade and International Investment:** US Department of Transportation TIGER Grant, ARC Local Access Road Program, US Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG), Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program (RBEG)
- **Workforce Training and Education:** US Department of Labor American Apprenticeship Initiative, National Science Foundation Advanced Technical Education (ATE) Program, and US Department of Labor/Education Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT)
- **Research, Innovation and Sustainability:** US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program
- **Supplier Networks and Startups:** Small Business Administration Accelerator Program, US Department of Housing and Urban Development Appalachia Economic Development Initiative (AEDI)

For more information on IMCP, contact:

Leigh Hopkins  
Project Manager  
Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute  
404.894.0933  
leigh.hopkins@gatech.edu

Julie Meadows  
Director of Regional Planning  
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission  
706.295.6485  
jmeadows@nwgrc.org

Deana Perry  
Community & Economic Development Representative  
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission  
706.295.6485  
dperry@nwgrc.org

Brian Anderson  
President & CEO  
Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce  
706.712.0955  
anderson@daltonchamber.org

David Apple  
GaMEP Region Manager, Northwest Georgia  
Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute  
770.328.0802  
david.apple@innovate.gatech.edu