Wichita State secures $1.9M grant to support advanced manufacturing


Daniel McCoy

Reporter: Wichita Business Journal
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Wichita State University on Friday announced a $1.9 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration that will be used to support advanced manufacturing.

The announcement was made U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams in conjunction with Manufacturing Day at WSU.

The money will be used to to buy equipment for a multi-robotic additive manufacturing (3D printing) laboratory.

Williams said the grant will help make the region a leader in developing new technologies that could ultimately benefit a variety of industries.

The project will have an emphasis on the transportation equipment manufacturing industry, while the technology can also be applied to medical equipment manufacturing.

"There is not a better place to be at a better time for this purpose," Williams said.

He added that the Obama administration knows the importance of driving not only innovation, but also the workforce that can use it and cited Wichita as prime example of how beneficial it is when innovation is in close proximity to where the the end-line products are made.

And with manufacturing "in Wichita’s DNA," Williams left the Air Capital the challenge of using the grant to help further innovation and ultimately job growth.

"We want to put this up as a shining example of success," Williams said.

Daniel McCoy covers aviation, manufacturing and automotive.