



2025 Word of the Year "Catalyst"

CGIA will host 3 learning sessions, one in each state (FL, AL, MS), for partners interested in learning from each other.

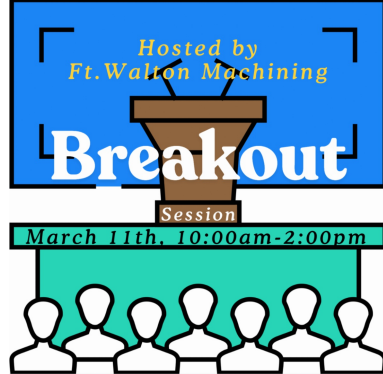
Breakout sessions will include topics for owners, contractors, associates, and training partners.

Agenda Summary

- CGIA Updates and Brainstorming
- State of the Union 2025 Updates: Fisher Phillips
- State of the State: Manufacturing and Industry Updates
- State of Education: Best Practices from Talent Pipeline Programs
- State of the Plant: Facility Tours

We hope you will join us as we dive into 2025 and "Catalyze" Workforce Development efforts across the region!

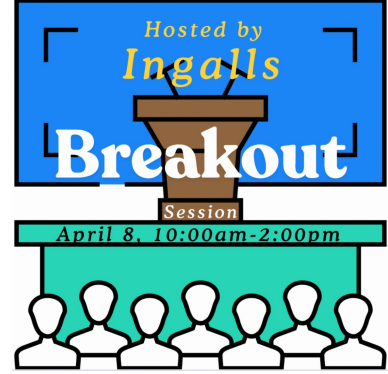
Click below to register for one or all!



Convenient for FL Members,
but all are welcome.



Convenient for AL Members,
but all are welcome.



Convenient for MS Members,
but all are welcome.

****Teacher Stipend Available****



**January 2025 Craft Wage Bulletin
is available!**

Renew your 2025 membership now or
join to immediately receive your login
and password to access this new
report .

Renew NOW or Join NOW

UWF earns high research activity designation from Carnegie Foundation

The University of West Florida was designated a Research 2: High Spending and Doctorate Production institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This is the first time the University has received this reputable classification.

"This recognition highlights the outstanding contributions of our faculty, demonstrating that those engaged in research activities are not only committed but also highly productive in advancing knowledge and innovation," said Dr. Jaromy Kuhl, UWF provost. "This also demonstrates that our University is excelling not only in enrollment and metrics but also in research."

This Research Activity Designation was determined by UWF's total research expenditure amount in 2023, reported in the National Science

Foundation HERD Survey, as well as the number of research doctorates reported in the IPEDS Completions Survey in the 2022-2023 academic year. During this evaluation period, UWF spent \$40,454,000 on research and awarded 29 doctorates. The threshold for achieving Research 2 status is, on average in a single year, spending at least \$5 million on research and development and awarding at least 20 research doctorates.

"The R2 classification is a big step forward in national recognition of UWF's research," said Dr. Jerry Lin, associate vice president of research administration and engagement. "It demonstrates our continued growth in research expenditures and graduating doctoral students contributing to research development critical for our society."

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center called to "do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education." The mission of the Foundation today is to "catalyze transformational change in education so that every student has the opportunity to live a healthy, dignified and fulfilling life."

For more information about the Department of Research Administration and Engagement, visit **uwf.edu/rae**.

For more information about The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, visit **carnegiefoundation.org**.



GE VERNOVA
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\$5000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENERGY INDUSTRY CAREERS

GE Vernova **FUTURE OF ENERGY** SkillPointe Scholarship

The GE Vernova Foundation is powering the energy transition by investing \$500,000 to fund scholarships for individuals of all backgrounds pursuing energy-related **skilled trades careers**. Pathways eligible for scholarship may include:



Construction | Electrical systems | Equipment
technician | Heavy equipment operation | HVAC |
Machining | Mechatronics | Pipefitting/Steamfitting |
Robotics | Systems technician | Welding | CNC
Machining

SkillPointe
FOUNDATION

Applicants can share how their training will advance **THE FUTURE OF ENERGY**.

www.skillpointefoundation.org



PART OF THE



MEP
National
Network™

Join us on Friday March 14, 2025, 10 am to 11 am Eastern.

Cut through the Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt of Cybersecurity threats and get started with a modern Cybersecurity program to defend your company and enable your business in the complex modern security and business world. Learn how to get started with fundamental best practices and evolve your company to a robust framework like the DoD's Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC).

FloridaMakes together with Cyber Florida is offering this webinar at no cost to Florida's manufacturers. There is a path to enabling your future business through Cybersecurity best practices in Florida.

[Link to Register](#)

Key Takeaways:

- Gain clarity as we present the key concepts of cybersecurity, CMMC Level 1 and Level 2, DIB, FCRA and other pertinent acronyms;
- Roadmap for starting a Cybersecurity practice if you don't already have one;
- Overview and key steps for achieving CMMC compliance for Defense suppliers;
- No-cost resources provided by Cyber Florida, including the Critical Infrastructure Risk

Thank you for the support!

With Purpose,

Jolee Martin
NW Florida Regional Director
FloridaMakes
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Orlando, FL 32801
www.floridamakes.com

Thank you to everyone who has renewed your 2025 Membership Dues!

Those who have renewed should have received your 2025 login and password for the Members Only section. If not, please **Email us**.

Membership Renewals were due February 1st. If you have not done so already. Let us know if you have not received your renewal invoice. You can also click to **renew or join immediately on our website**.

CUSTOM SOCK CONTEST

Help us design custom socks!
Please submit your idea by the **end of April**.

Members will vote on a design and we will have
socks for everyone by the fall general
membership meeting.

Help us promote our regional pride!

ENTER NOW

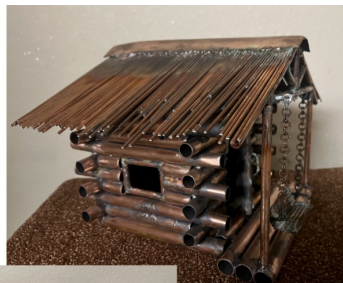


[Email Kristie Kelley](#)

We are only a few weeks away from beginning our breakout sessions in each state we cover along the Gulf Coast and cannot wait to see our members face-to-face. Be sure to register today so we can ensure robust learning as well as get a headcount for lunch!

Don't forget to submit your design ideas for our custom sock contest. We hope you will help us get the word out about CGIA and grow the network of partners by advertising on your feet everywhere you go!

Finally, we have a few sculptures that were made by students and we will hold a silent auction soon. Proceeds from the auction will go directly to the school and a portion to the winning sculpture designer. Sculptures will be available to view at the breakout sessions.





Follow us on social media

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