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PHOTO FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD IN ENGLAND

Portland Community College has won support from the Oregon Legislature to build an educational facility to address a future workforce in high tech manufacturing similar to the Advanced Manufacturing Resource Center (above) at the University of Sheffield in England.

Investing in Manufacturing Research

PCC wins support to build center on apprenticeship model

Big news came out of the Oregon Legislature with the announcement of \$7.5 million to be appropriated to Portland Community College for the creation of an Advanced Manufacturing Research Center.

The project, built on the synergy of regional industry, academia and government stakeholders, is based in part on an apprenticeship model developed by Boeing and the University of Sheffield in England to

address critical manufacturing challenges through applied research and advanced technical training.

The state's investment will be added to \$9.4 million in bonding authority from Portland Community College to support educational opportunities in Columbia County, west of Portland, where the center would be located. Additional sources of financial support potentially include private



Gov. Kate Brown

and public investors and federal grants.

"This is an investment not just in high tech manufacturing, but in our workforce, in regional job growth, and our state's economic future," said Gov. Kate Brown. "Today we are taking an important step forward, developing a world-class community where instruction, research, design, and manufacturing intersect for the benefit of all."

Initial efforts will focus on training for students through industry-sponsored skilled apprenticeships that lead to postsecondary credentials and family-wage jobs.

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