

Technology is transforming manufacturing. Trends including big data, automation, machine learning, and the widespread use of sensors are converging to drive the industry's evolution at an ever-increasing pace. Manufacturers must stay connected to innovation or risk getting left behind. That's why WEDC has partnered with WMEP Manufacturing Solutions and the UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center to support the Transformational Productivity Initiative, which aims to help manufacturers harness the potential of these new technologies.



Automation can help fill gaps in a tight labor market—but the true promise of automation lies in its power to optimize, rather than replace, talent. By automating routine tasks, you can free up valued workers to put their skills and expertise to use on more complex tasks—with a benefit to your company's bottom line as well as employee satisfaction.

Industry-leading companies are up to 40% more productive than their peers, and smart use of automation is part of the explanation—but not all of it. With the Transformational Productivity Initiative (TPI), Wisconsin manufacturers can learn from the best practices of those industry leaders.

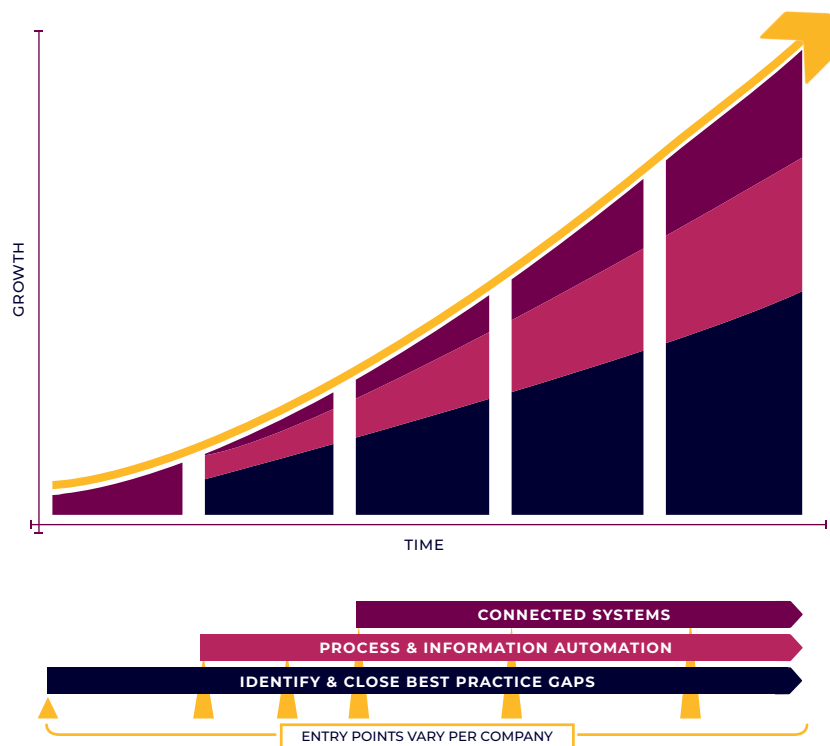
By focusing on the productivity of all facets of an organization, TPI allows manufacturers to do more with their existing human and capital resources. TPI offers a set of tools and delivery systems to help manufacturers assess and prioritize actions to increase their productivity via basic process improvements and management best practices—and helps with automation, robotics, and smart manufacturing integration in ways that make sense for their business.

TPI is a program of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership Network that helps manufacturers do more with existing resources through technological advancements as well as eliminating waste and maximizing efficiencies.

TPI connects manufacturers to experts and to one another so they can adopt the best practices of the industry. Participants in TPI's pilot round reported a 38% increase in labor productivity, a 14% increase in total factor productivity, and a 1.6% increase in profit margin.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRESSION

(PORTRAYING POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY CONTRIBUTIONS)



LEVERAGING AUTOMATION TO MAKE THE MOST OF LIMITED RESOURCES

With a \$750,000 Targeted Industry Project Grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity will help small and midsize manufacturers cover the cost of purchasing or leasing automation or advanced manufacturing technology or equipment.

This will complement the center's Automation Advisor™ tool—a company-specific assessment that results in a strategic roadmap for selecting the best automation solutions—by providing the resources for a given company to implement the roadmap that's been created for them. The new grant initiative aims to accelerate the adoption of automation so they can more quickly realize the full benefits of Industry 4.0 advancements.

Adopting these technologies according to a well-designed strategy reduces risk while allowing the company to grow and become more competitive. Smart use of automation in manufacturing can also improve safety and quality outcomes, boosting the company's value and making it more likely to thrive in the future.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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**Growth and
Innovation**



Technology



**Human Capital
Management**



Enterprise Excellence



**Leadership and
Strategy**

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