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## **Mission LIFT from Learning Blade® Launching in Kentucky Middle Schools**

*Program to bring lightweight materials and careers to life for students*

Frankfort, KY. –Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT), in partnership with Kentucky STEMx Network, Dataseam and the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers , recently announced LIFT’s sponsorship of Learning Blade®’s *Mission LIFT and Learning Blade full licenses* in 32 Kentucky middle schools. Learning Blade is an online curriculum focused on increasing students’ interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and motivating middle and high school students toward careers in advanced manufacturing.

“Manufacturing jobs are on the rise and early exposure to opportunities through programs like Learning Blade is essential to peak students’ interest in the field,” said Emily Stover DeRocco, Workforce and Education Director, LIFT. “LIFT is proud to sponsor this program for students in Kentucky and grow the state’s future manufacturing workforce.”

"Thanks to the LIFT partnership with the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers and Kentucky STEMx as well as others, middle school students participating in Learning Blade modules in Kentucky schools are able to explore lightweighting methods, materials, and technologies used by welders, machinists, industrial designers and drafters, and engineers. Partnerships such as this one with LIFT assist Kentucky students in learning about STEM," said Dr. Eve Profitt, Director of Education Innovation and Kentucky STEMx Network.

This is a national investment by LIFT with early emphasis on LIFT's five partner states: Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana. The 32 Mission LIFT participating middle schools in Kentucky are located in Caldwell, Clay, Daviess, Fayette, Hancock, Jefferson, Madison, and Webster counties.

"Not every student can visit a manufacturing facility to learn about real world, authentic job opportunities that exist today and for which they can be ready tomorrow," said David Helm, Secondary Instructional Specialist, Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington, KY. "Learning Blade is a perfect way to enhance our students' knowledge of STEM principles and manufacturing careers using a digital platform, meeting young people where they are : online!"

For more information on Mission LIFT in Kentucky and other LIFT education and workforce development initiatives, please visit [www.lift.technology](http://www.lift.technology) or contact LIFT Workforce & Education Director Emily DeRocco, at [ederocco@lift.technology](mailto:ederocco@lift.technology).

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## **ABOUT LIFT**

*Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow (LIFT) is a public-private partnership that will develop and deploy advanced lightweight materials manufacturing technologies and programs to prepare the workforce. The LIFT region includes 5 states: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.*

*LIFT is operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) and was selected through a competitive process led by the U.S. Department of Defense under the Lightweight and Modern Metals Manufacturing Innovation (LM3I) solicitation issued by the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research. LIFT is one of the founding institutes in the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, a federal initiative to create regional hubs to accelerate the development and adoption of cutting-edge manufacturing technologies.*

## **ABOUT KY STEMX**

***STEM education in Kentucky*** refers to the interdisciplinary teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics from preschool through post-secondary (P20), and develops a level of rigor sufficient to produce creative critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who can thrive and adapt in a global economy. Kentucky STEMx will serve as the vehicle by which STEM stakeholders collaborate to ensure college and career ready students.

## **ABOUT LEARNING BLADE®**

*Learning Blade®*, owned and operated by Thinking Media, creators of ACT's KeyTrain®, is designed to provide engaging resources that will expose students to STEM related career opportunities and help them develop key skills as they move forward. This innovative approach to STEM education focuses on activities that can be utilized both in a self-paced game environment and as practice in academic classrooms.

# BUILDING 21st CENTURY MANUFACTURING TALENT

## Metals Manufacturing Mission: Learning Blade® deployment in Kentucky

An Education & Workforce Development Initiative for LIFT...Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow



### LEARNING BLADE IN KENTUCKY

With investment from LIFT, Thinking Media created a new online curriculum within the Learning Blade® platform focused on lightweight metals, manufacturing technologies, and careers. The new Mission is part of the curriculum available to all Learning Blade® users nationally. In partnership with Kentucky Stemx Network, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers and DataSeam, Office of Career & Technical Education, LIFT is sponsoring the new Learning Blade® program implementation in 30 middle schools across the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the goal of statewide reach in the coming years.

Kentucky companies have increasing needs for manufacturing workers as they grow jobs and current workers age out of the workforce. Reaching future workers during middle school is essential to build a foundation of knowledge and skills that will launch students into the manufacturing careers of the future. Learning Blade®'s program provides experiences in many different career settings to show students all that is possible for them.

Lessons included in the program that will reach students throughout Kentucky highlight jobs in:

- Welding
- Mechanical & industrial engineering
- Industrial design & drafting
- Machining
- Mechatronics
- Hybrid vehicles
- Manufacturing & materials technology

### ALIGNMENT TO LIFT WORKFORCE & EDUCATION GOALS



Attract more young people to manufacturing careers



Ensure students gain STEM foundational skills



Reconnecting disconnected youth to high quality, middle skills jobs

### PARTNERS



### GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

Tied to statewide rollout in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 30 schools have committed to the program in the following counties:

SCHOOL	DISTRICT
Caldwell County Middle School	Caldwell County
Clay County Middle School	Clay County
Beaumont Middle School	Fayette County
Bryan Station Middle School	Fayette County
Carter G. Woodson Academy of Excellence	Fayette County
Crawford Middle School	Fayette County
EJ Hayes Middle School	Fayette County
Fayette County Middle School	Fayette County
Jessie Clark Middle School	Fayette County
Leestown Middle School	Fayette County
Lexington Traditional Magnet School	Fayette County
Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Excellence	Fayette County
Morton Middle School	Fayette County
SCAPA at Bluegrass	Fayette County
Tates Creek Middle School	Fayette County
The Learning Center at Linlee	Fayette County
Winburn Middle School	Fayette County
Academy at Shawnee	Jefferson County
Central High School	Jefferson County
Hancock County Middle School	Hancock County
B. Michael Caudill Middle School	Madison County
Clark-Moores Middle	Madison County
Farristown Middle School	Madison County
Foley Middle School	Madison County
Madison Middle School	Madison County
Estes Elementary	Daviess County
Owensboro High School	Daviess County
Owensboro Middle School North	Daviess County
Owensboro Middle School South	Daviess County
Webster County Middle School	Webster County