

Future Work Academy

Workforce Training for Iowa's Manufacturing Future

The Challenge

Iowa manufacturers face a critical skills gap:

- **\$32 billion** GDP goal requires Industry 4.0 adoption
 - Supervisors lack training in **AI/automation decision-making**
 - Workers fear displacement; managers struggle to **communicate change**
 - Traditional training doesn't build lasting **decision-making skills**
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The Solution

Future Work Academy is a **multi-simulation platform** where manufacturing supervisors and managers practice leading through technology transitions — before they face them in real life. Iowa cohorts run our flagship simulation, **The Future of Work at Apex Manufacturing**, today, with the Iowa-specific **Prairie Precision Manufacturing** scenario coming next. Partner colleges can also build custom scenarios using our **Simulation Builder**, guided by **Akme**, our AI authoring partner.

How It Works:

Week	Activity
1-8	Participants step into an executive role at a fictional manufacturing company
Weekly	Make strategic decisions on automation, workforce, and stakeholder management
Ongoing	Receive AI-powered feedback on decision quality and rationale
End	Compete via leaderboards; earn completion certificates

8 weeks. 1 hour per week. Measurable results.

260F Eligible Training

Future Work Academy qualifies as a **260F Iowa Jobs Training Program** expense:

- **Enhances employee performance** in technology transition leadership
- **Delivered through community college partnership** (your institution)
- **Clear cost documentation** via per-seat licensing
- **Measurable outcomes** with built-in assessment and completion tracking

- **Reimbursable training activity** under Iowa Code 260F

What Participants Learn

Skill	How It's Assessed
Evaluating automation ROI	Decision scoring
Developing workforce reskilling strategies	Essay evaluation
Navigating union/labor relations	Stakeholder impact metrics
Communicating change to stakeholders	Multi-criteria feedback
Balancing financial and cultural health	Dual scoreboard results

Iowa Manufacturing Simulation (Coming 2026)

A new simulation on the Future Work Academy platform — joining the flagship Apex Manufacturing scenario — featuring:

- **Prairie Precision Manufacturing** - Iowa agricultural equipment supplier
- **Rural community dynamics** and small-town employment stakes
- **Local UAW chapter** negotiations and workforce transition
- **260F and Manufacturing 4.0** grant integration as plot elements
- **Midwest work culture** and multigenerational workforce

Pilot Program Opportunity

Spring 2026 Pilot with founding Iowa community college partners:

Element	Details
Participants	25-50 manufacturing supervisors/managers
Duration	8 weeks (1 hr/week)
Your Role	Training provider, participant recruitment, 260F administration
Our Role	Platform access, content, analytics, technical support
Investment	Discounted pilot pricing for founding partners

Why Partner with Future Work Academy?

For Your Institution:

- Expand workforce development offerings
- Attract manufacturing employer partnerships
- Support 260F funding utilization
- Differentiate from competitor colleges

For Your Manufacturing Partners:

- Upskill supervisors for technology transitions
- Use 260F funding for innovative training
- Measurable outcomes for training ROI
- Flexible online format for shift workers

For Participants:

- Learn by doing, not just listening
- Safe environment to practice high-stakes decisions
- Personalized AI feedback on their thinking
- Completion certificate for professional development

Platform Highlights

Feature	Benefit
Web-based	No software installation
24/7 access	Flexible for shift workers
Mobile-responsive	Complete on any device
Instructor dashboard	Real-time analytics
LMS integration	Canvas, Blackboard, Moodle
Sandbox Mode	Preview entire experience before launch

Pricing (Workforce Development Rate)

Cohort Size	Per-Seat	Total Investment
15-25	\$75-100	\$1,125 - \$2,500
25-50	\$60-75	\$1,500 - \$3,750
50+	\$45-60	Contact for quote

Consortium discount: 15% off for multi-company, multi-district training programs

Next Steps

1. **15-Minute Discovery Call** - Overview of platform and Iowa opportunity
 2. **Live Demo** - See the simulation from student and instructor perspectives
 3. **Pilot Scoping** - Identify participating manufacturers and timeline
 4. **260F Application Support** - We'll help document training outcomes
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Contact

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"Future Work Academy doesn't teach theory—it builds decision-making muscle."

About Future Work Academy

A **multi-simulation platform** for workforce development and business education — from community college through executive training. The flagship simulation, *The Future of Work at Apex Manufacturing*, ships today; the Iowa-specific Prairie Precision scenario is in development; and partner colleges can author their own scenarios with the Simulation Builder + Akme. FERPA-compliant. Transparent AI evaluation. Currently in active pilot development with business educators. Built for institutions that demand both rigor and innovation.

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