



## **A Development Vision for Chicago's Austin Community**

Our approach to economic development is premised on the potential to re-grow and re-attract advanced manufacturing to Austin, giving current residents the opportunity to lead and benefit from such development. The key to this vision's success is quality education.

We've taken the following initiatives to advance our development vision for Austin:

- Started Austin Polytechnical Academy (APA), which prepares students for leadership in all aspects of the manufacturing sector, and serves as an anchor for manufacturing in Austin
- Opened APA's Manufacturing Technology Center, which offers education and training for adults in basic math and technology, as well as advanced machining and NIMS certifications
- Connected with Austin elementary schools to introduce younger students to technology and Austin Polytechnical Academy
- Linked Austin into manufacturing programs at the Arturo Vasquez Institute of West Side Tech. Programs include advanced machining (NIMS) training, as well as a broader array of training options, including welding, fork lift, machine operator, etc. We are collaborating with the leadership of Daley College and City Colleges of Chicago in this new initiative.
- Developed the Austin Reentry Advantage program, which prepares the ex-incarcerated to reenter society with steady jobs in manufacturing
- Proposed the Austin Renewable Energy Innovation Park, a high-tech research and incubation facility located on an old industrial site, focused on new manufacturing opportunities in wind and renewable energy. The Innovation Park would introduce existing companies to new markets, help grow new companies, and attract businesses to the greater Austin area.

For more information, please contact Erica Swinney at [eswinney@clcr.org](mailto:eswinney@clcr.org)