

A Wisconsin forest products cluster: a catalyst for sustainable, enduring transformation

Coalition and Applicant: Stacey Johnson & Paul Fowler

Led by the WPC, a diverse and powerful coalition was formed to represent the voice of Wisconsin's Forest Products Industry. This coalition includes WPC, GLTPA, SRI, Mid State Technical College, UW-Stevens Point, Menominee Nation Tribal Enterprises, and the Wisconsin DNR.

Phase 1: \$500,000 Technical Assistance Grant (50-60 recipients from 536 applications)

- Application submitted
- Achieved support of National philanthropic group and consultants for Phase 2 development
- Announcement anticipated December 8th

Phase 2: \$98-Million grant to complete Phase 2 proposal (estimated to be 30 recipients)

- Work is actively underway
- 7 independent projects included in 1 transformational proposal

This proposal has received dozens of letters of support and partnership from industry, unions, CoF, educational institutions from k-12 to university, EDC's and non-profits, trade organizations, local and state officials, WEDC, Governor Evers and Senator Baldwin.

Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant Opportunity

WISCONSIN
PAPER COUNCIL

7 Projects, 1 Transformational Path Forward

- ▶ Forest-Fiber-Paper-Packaging Nexus
- ▶ Foresight and Benchmarking
- ▶ Recovered Paper and Recycled Fiber Advancement
- ▶ Maple Wood Transformation
- ▶ AMETA Center
- ▶ High Performance Paper Packaging
- ▶ Alternative Mill and Market

WPC Workforce Study, Awards & Special Projects

- ▶ **WPC/UW-Oshkosh Statewide Workforce Study: Final Stage**
 - ▶ Outreach, data collection, and stakeholder meetings are complete. The final report is being completed this quarter, anticipating scheduling a public event to share the results.
- ▶ **Converting Study Grant (\$25,000) Awarded**
 - ▶ WPC was awarded \$25,000 to study the state of WI's converting industry and the use of Wi materials in converting. This project is a partnership effort between WPC and Scott Bowe, Kemp Research Center
 - ▶ Current efforts includes: interviews, tours, and data collection is underway
 - ▶ This project is supported by UWSP, DNR, multiple WPC members and industry partners
- ▶ **Workforce Innovation Grant (\$9-mil, \$35,000) Applied in Partnership**
 - ▶ The WEDC announced \$100 million grant to support Regional efforts to address workforce issues in WI. Nearly 140 applications have been received
 - ▶ WPC partnered with Mid-State Technical College and the Centergy region on this opportunity and applied for funds to develop and implement programming specific to the forest products industry