

For immediate release

Allegheny Conference on Community Development Applauds Formation of TechBelt Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute

\$30 million federal grant to accelerate manufacturing innovation in “mega-region” across parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia

**Contact: Phil Cynar, Allegheny Conference on Community Development
412-281-4783, ext. 4573/ pcynar@allegHENYconference.org**

(PITTSBURGH – August 16, 2012) – A spirit of collaboration and public-private partnership have set the stage for the Cleveland-to-Pittsburgh-to-Morgantown “Tech Belt” to lead the way in revitalizing American manufacturing and encouraging companies to invest in the U.S. The Allegheny Conference on Community Development applauded [today’s announcement](#) by the White House that the Department of Defense will provide \$30 million to establish a TechBelt Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Youngstown, Ohio.

“Eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia have been competitors and collaborators for more than 150 years – harnessing natural resources below ground and human resources above ground in our ‘mega-region’ to drive the industrial revolution in America,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference, the parent organization of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, which co-chairs the TechBelt initiative. “Now, collaboration is driving a resurgence of American manufacturing through innovation – leveraging a network of partners in industry and higher education from these states. We salute all the partners for their hard work that led to this moment, as well as for their continued willingness to work together across state lines and across academia, government, industry and the non-profit sector. Partnership has made this institute possible.”

“The Pittsburgh region, once known mostly for steel, remains a national leader in advanced manufacturing,” said Dewitt Peart, president of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and co-chair of the TechBelt Initiative. “Our neighbors in Ohio and West Virginia also take enormous pride in making things and innovating materials and processes to make them better. By working together through a network of manufacturers, colleges and universities and non-profits, we can combine unparalleled expertise to take manufacturing innovation in America to the next level.”

###

About the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute

The NAMII will provide the innovation infrastructure needed to support new additive manufacturing technology and products in order to become a global center of excellence for this promising technology. Additive manufacturing, often referred to as 3D printing, is a new way of making products and components from a digital model, and will have implications in a wide range of industries including defense, aerospace, automotive and

metals manufacturing. Like an office printer that puts 2D digital files on a sheet of paper, a 3D printer creates components by depositing thin layers of material one after another using a digital blueprint until the exact component required has been created. The Department of Defense envisions customizing parts on-site for operational systems, saving more than 50 percent in energy use related to manufacturing and shipping.

This pilot institute in Youngstown will bridge the gap between basic research and product development for additive manufacturing, provide shared assets to help companies -- particularly small manufacturers -- access cutting-edge capabilities and equipment, and create an environment to educate and train workers in advanced additive manufacturing skills across the western Pennsylvania-eastern Ohio-northern West Virginia mega-region.

About the Allegheny Conference

The Allegheny Conference and its affiliates, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org

About the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance

The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. For more information, visit www.pittsburghregion.org

About the TechBelt Initiative

The TechBelt Initiative is a network of technology and innovation stakeholders who perceived the value of a collaboration to accelerate economic growth within the northeast Ohio, western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia region. Its more than 40 organizational members are broad-based, representing the region's technology-related economic development organizations, foundations, researchers and chambers of commerce. Since its inception in 2008, TechBelt has been forging new industry and university partnerships, responding to competitive grant opportunities and connecting cross-state resources to attract new investment. Learn more at www.techbelt.org