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# Patrick & Henry Community College

About P&HCC: Patrick & Henry Community College, a comprehensive two-year institution, services Martinsville city as well as Patrick and Henry counties. P&HCC is a top tier leader among community colleges in areas such as athletics, technology, and unique program offerings. By providing a multitude of innovative curricula such as motorsports, entrepreneurship, and mechatronics, P&HCC is changing lives and enriching the community it serves. P&HCC is an EEO institution.

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## P&HCC Selected To Join MakerUSA Learning Network

MARTINSVILLE, VA – Patrick & Henry Community College was selected to join the inaugural cohort of the MakerUSA Learning Network. The MakerUSA Learning Network is a national community of practice designed to facilitate the exchange of resources and ideas, develop new regional collaborations and strengthen social capital across institutions and organizations taking community-driven approaches to supporting maker education and pathways to “making” industries. The model also aims to lift up best practices for the wider fields of maker education and workforce development innovation, including entrepreneurship.

“Making” includes industries ranging from advanced manufacturing and biotechnology to computer science and the skilled trades. Maker education uniquely empowers students to explore and improve their world. It enables students to create by building, prototyping, coding, digitally fabricating and experimenting. Maker education puts the student at the center of the learning experience and is interdisciplinary, fusing arts and design with science, technology, engineering and math.

P&HCC has two Fab Labs. One Fab Lab is housed in the Thomas P. Dalton IDEA Center in Martinsville and is the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia that is part of the Fab Lab Network. P&HCC’s second Fab Lab is in Patrick County and was funded by a Build to Scale grant from the US Economic Development Administration. Both facilities offer opportunities for digital fabrication for individuals and companies in ways that are not practical or economical using mass production. In addition to integrating the Fab Lab into academic programming, Patrick & Henry uses it to promote student and community entrepreneurship and is available to business and industry to develop new products and technology.

P&HCC’s Fab Lab equipment includes:

3D Printers

Vinyl Cutter

Laser Cutter

CNC Router

CNC Wire Bender

Electronic Work Stations

Metal & Wood Working Equipment

“We’re excited to be joining this inaugural cohort of makers”, said Matthew Ratliff, Coordinator of Community Development Programs at Patrick & Henry. “We look forward to sharing ideas and techniques to make our Fab Lab an even greater resource for our community.”

P&HCC was selected to be a part of the MakerUSA Learning Network based on its unique expertise, leadership and community goals.

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#### **About MakerUSA**

MakerUSA's mission is to partner with the communities that have been most marginalized by unequal access and opportunity and support their goals to leverage maker education to drive community-led innovation and maker career pathways. MakerUSA is a new organization (founded in 2021) that is incubated within the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship ([NACCE](#)). MakerUSA is made possible by the generous support of founding sponsors [Arconic Foundation](#) and [Genentech](#).

#### **About NACCE**

NACCE's mission is to provide leadership and resources to foster entrepreneurial thinking and action in one of the largest entrepreneurial ecosystems in North America. NACCE has a diverse and growing network of over 300 community and technical colleges and minority-serving institutions.