BOTSKC
A KC NATIONAL TOOLING & MACHINING ASSOCIATION PROGRAM

BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE, TOGETHER

Workforce Development Requires a Long-Term Vision

Meeting today's workforce needs requires the recruitment and development of tomorow's skilled employees. It's equally important to invest in the future workforce by inspiring students before they make decisions about college, technical education, apprenticeships, and careers.

Trade associations have always advocated for their industries. They're uniquely positioned to connect students to the careers their member companies depend on, rolling recruitment and workforce development into one program.

BotsKC Is Inspiring the Next Generation

BotsKC is a 501(c)(3) workforce development initiative that uses hands-on robotics experiences to open doors into engineering, manufacturing, and the skilled trades. Our flagship program, the National Robotics League (NRL), **challenges high school and college students to design, build, program, and compete with 15-pound combat robots** while developing teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Founded with support from the precision machining industry, BotsKC has grown beyond a single career pathway. Today, our **students are exploring careers across engineering, manufacturing, welding, automation, robotics, computer science, and other technical professions.**

Our long-term goal is to create a workforce development ecosystem that begins with career awareness in middle school, expands exploration in high school, strengthens preparation through collegiate robotics, and ultimately connects students with rewarding careers in industry.

WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK?

To better understand the impact of our program, BotsKC surveyed participating students. The results were clear.

STUDENTS ARE INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL CAREERS.

The most common career interests included:

- Engineering
- Advanced Manufacturing (includes precision machining, robotics, automation, welding, and manufacturing)
- Computer Science & Programming
- Other Technical Careers

Students also shared that BotsKC helped them:

- Better understand engineering and manufacturing concepts
- Develop teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills
- Build confidence in STEM and technical problem-solving

Perhaps most importantly, many expressed a strong interest and desire for:

- Internships and apprenticeships (68% were interested!)
- Industry mentors and career speakers
- Company tours
- Clear career pathways

A SHARED OPPORTUNITY

Students are already interested in the careers your industry offers. They are asking for more opportunities to connect with professionals, explore workplaces, and better understand the pathways available to them.

BotsKC believes no single organization can build tomorrow's workforce alone. **By working together, industry associations, educators, employers, and workforce organizations can create stronger career pathways** to inspire the next generation of skilled professionals, which ensures the long-term success of our industries.

We welcome the opportunity to explore how our organizations can work together to strengthen the future workforce.