



Wisconsin

Madison makes its mark with support for up-and-coming companies

Madison, home to the flagship campus of the University of Wisconsin, has long been an economic bright spot for the state. Now in its 15th year of awarding funding, connections, and opportunities to entrepreneurs from across the state, The Governor’s Business Plan Contest is run there by the Wisconsin Technology Council. Contest finalists have raised more than \$200 million in funding overall, with many scoring successes in everything from cancer detection to craft beer production.

Last year’s winner was Northern Star Fire, a manufacturer of an electronic compass that guides firefighters through difficult conditions. The compass – developed by a former firefighter – is installed inside the breathing equipment to help navigate burning buildings even in zero-visibility conditions.

The capital city isn’t the only area of note in the Badger State, however. Fewer than 100 miles to the east, the city of Mount Pleasant is making state history with the largest development deal ever recorded in Wisconsin. Under the deal, Foxconn Technology Group will build a \$10 billion flat-screen plant. The 25 million-square foot facility will house up to 13,000 new jobs and produce liquid crystal displays.

As part of the agreement, Racine County will dedicate nearly \$6 million to workforce development efforts, including apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing and other trades. Officials hope those efforts will create a pipeline of skilled workers to fill the positions at Foxconn and its suppliers.

Sources: (CBRE) (USA Today) (BPC) (Journal Sentinel) (Journal Sentinel)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Wisconsin added 61 jobs per 1,000 people from Q2/2011 to Q4/2016.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Wisconsin can remove restrictions on drones, including limitations on where operators can fly the devices.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

An executive order creating a steering committee to advise the governor on promoting the testing and development of SDVs is a step in the right direction.

Best & Brightest	B
Fast Internet	C+
Grants Advanced Degrees	C
Tech Workforce	B+
Tax Friendly	C
Attracts Investment	B-
Entrepreneurial Activity	B
Ridesharing	A
Short-Term Rentals	B-
Sustainable Policies	B-
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	D-



Fast Internet

More than 60 percent of Wisconsin households have internet connections of at least 10 mbps and more than 33 percent have connections of at least 25 mbps.



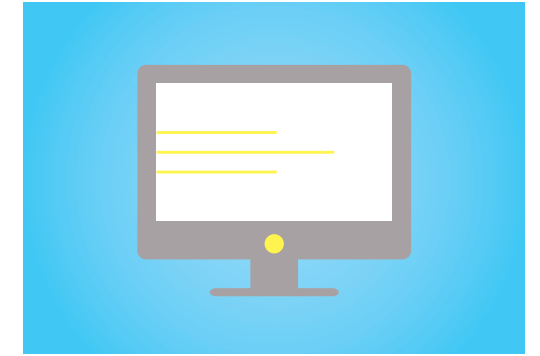
Best & Brightest

Wisconsin lacks legislation that protects workers from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity but does have a Right-to-Work law.



Grants Advanced Degrees

Nearly 10 percent of Wisconsinites over the age of 24 have an advanced degree.



Tech Workforce

Wisconsin boasts roughly 43 tech jobs per 1,000 residents, for a total of almost 250,000.

Making History, Flatscreens, and Thousands of New Factory Jobs in the Badger State

In late 2017, Foxconn Technology Group landed the biggest development deal in Wisconsin history.

Thanks to more than \$760 million in incentives from the local government, the facility should generate a minimum of \$1.4 billion in taxable revenue by 2023.

Foxconn plans to build its 25-million-square foot plant in Mount Pleasant, on roughly 1,200 acres near the borders of Racine and Kenosha counties. The flatscreen plant could create as many as 13,000 new jobs for the state.

As part of the agreement, Racine County will spend \$5.75 million over five years on workforce development, including apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing and other trades. The programs are designed to help Foxconn meet the demand for workers, in addition to the employees that suppliers will need to keep up.



PHOTO CREDIT: Alinghi3, English Wikipedia | Sources: (Journal Sentinel)