

Build Back Better Regional Challenge
Project 3: Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers
Robotics Scholarship

This scholarship opportunity is made available to eligible students enrolled in the Robotics AAS program at the Advanced Technology Center. It is **available for Fall and Spring semesters only, and is being offered through the Spring 2026 semester**, with eligibility reevaluated for each of those semester terms. It is provided by a federal grant, received as part of Westmoreland County Community College's involvement as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative, which was a recipient of funding from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC). At Westmoreland County Community College, this grant program runs from September 2022 through September 2026. The BBBRC was created as part of the federal government's American Rescue Plan. The \$1 billion national challenge is the marquee of U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) programs that aims to boost economic recovery from the pandemic and rebuild American communities, including those grappling with decades of disinvestment.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative (SWPANEC), is an 11-county coalition, which includes dozens of organizations: community-based organizations, labor unions, educational and research institutions, economic development partners and leaders from the private, public and philanthropic sectors.

The Robotics AAS Scholarship at the Advanced Technology Center/Westmoreland County Community College was created under the Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers Project as part of this federal grant program. The project has a goal of establishing inclusive career pathways for workers, especially those from historically excluded communities.

The Robotics AAS Scholarship supports the goal of developing a regional workforce in the field of robotics to sustain this growing sector of business and industry here in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

To be eligible for consideration for this scholarship, which can help cover costs of tuition, fees and provides an allowance which may be used toward the purchase of program required books for Robotics AAS coursework, students must agree to the following:

- You will complete the FAFSA first; then determination for BBB Robotics Grant will be determined,
- Math Placement Testing will be required for all students entering Westmoreland. An assessment is given to determine present skills in mathematics. SAT or ACT testing is not required. A score of 14 on the Aleks Placement Assessment or successful completion of MTH 050 with a grade of C or better is necessary to begin coursework in Robotics,
- English competency will be assessed through high school transcripts,
- You must be enrolled in the Fall and Spring semesters for at least six (6) credits of academic instruction per semester, and maintain unbroken enrollment in the pursuit of a degree,
- You must achieve a 2.5 GPA in order to be considered for renewal of this award for the next academic semester;
- If you do not achieve a 2.5 GPA for the prior semester, you will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. You will be ineligible for the scholarship beyond that term if you do not achieve a 2.5 GPA by the end of the semester in which you were placed on academic probation,
- You will receive and sign an Award Letter outlining the guidelines for receiving grant funding,
- You understand grant funding is available during fall and spring semesters ONLY,
- You understand any remaining balance of grant funding will NOT be issued as a refund to the student,
- You agree to attend one (1) career development event each Fall and Spring semester,

- You agree to follow the guidelines set forth in the student handbook and outlined in the Robotics Award Letter.

Direct academic questions related to the application process to:

Ellie Nesser, ATC pathways advisor
724-925-4247
nessern@westmoreland.edu

OR

Becky Parker, ATC director
724-925-4104
parkerr@westmoreland.edu

Joanna Markle, Director/Grant Activities
724-925-8471
marklej@westmoreland.edu

SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW ECONOMY
COLLABORATIVE

