The SA Advanced Manufacturing grantees participated in their May industry group discussion. This discussion covered challenges and strategies to continue program implementation and operations during a pandemic. Grantees shared:

- **Employer’s continued interest** in the program, but reticence to increase the number of apprentices due to the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 crisis.

- **Program strategies** designed to assist participants in completing training requirements. Examples included mailing students materials to complete labs at home and allowing the hands-on portion of the instruction, normally conducted at the school, to be completed at the employer worksite.

- **Implementation challenges** during a national pandemic, including:
  - Figuring out the logistics of social distancing at work sites.
  - Delayed start-up of programs due to the pandemic.
  - Increase in apprenticeship displacement due to decreased supply demand or company closure. Apprentices are being furloughed or let go.

- **Strategies for engaging new and current partners.** These included searching for innovative rapid onboarding ideas and conducting employer events virtually.