Advanced Manufacturing grantees participated in the monthly industry group discussion. In this session participants discussed:

- **Implementation bright spots** amid difficulties presented by the COVID-19 crisis including:
  - Wider use of virtual learning platforms to ensure the continuation of course instruction
  - Quick implementation of proposed innovations
  - Increased openness to ideas and strategies for programmatic implementation
  - More time to focus on the administrative aspects of grant operation such as paperwork related to the reorganization of grant structures and data entry
  - Time to complete grant operation and management trainings.

- **Employer engagement** activities during social distancing and challenges faced due to the crisis. Grantees are experiencing varying degrees of challenge, but report that employers are thinking of innovative ways to move their apprenticeship programs forward such as:
  - Moving apprenticeship related instruction online
  - Placing industry credential courses online
  - Adjusting cohort sizes to comply with social distancing guidance (once stay at home orders are lifted)
  - Restructuring the program model to provide RTI presently and On-the-Job (OJT) training in the Fall.

- Helpful **program structures** to have in place once stay at home orders are lifted and programs can resume with more normalcy.

- Grantees mentioned **flexibility** and **streamlined communication** from DOL.

- **Participant recruitment** in the current environment. Grantees shared concerns related to:
  - The number of apprentices employers are able and willing to take on when the crisis abates
  - Convincing employers to take on new apprentices who had not started before the COVID-19 Crisis
  - Getting in contact with potential apprentices, especially those who are high school seniors whose school years have already ended.

- The new **IRAP rule** and its impact on their grants.