



MEMO

To: John Dahlgren, Faculty, Butte College
CC: Thomas Williams, Chair of Industrial Technologies, Butte College
From: Anna Hoehenrieder, Research Analyst, North Far North Center of Excellence (NFN COE); Sara Phillips, Co-Director, NFN COE
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Subject: Advanced Manufacturing in Butte and Glenn Counties

Background

Butte College requested labor market data from the North Far North COE to support new program development within Advanced Manufacturing.

This memo builds on the Advanced Manufacturing sector profile (attached). The sector profile lists top middle-skill occupations and industry analysis for the Far North subregion. This memo looks specifically at the industries and skills in demand in Butte College’s service area of Butte and Glenn counties.

In the Far North, there were 850 business establishments in the Advanced Manufacturing industries with 17,461 jobs as of 2024. In Butte and Glenn counties specifically, there were 222 business establishments with 4,707 jobs as of 2024. Exhibit 1 shows the top 10 industry areas with the most jobs.

Exhibit 1. Top Advanced Manufacturing industries in Butte and Glenn counties

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024 Establishments
Food Manufacturing	1,196	1237	38
Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	683	672	14
Machinery Manufacturing	474	353	24
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	361	338	13
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	353	332	28
Wood Product Manufacturing	300	272	14
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	242	207	17
Printing and Related Support Activities	212	216	12
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	202	237	10
Paper Manufacturing	191	191	3

Source: Lightcast 2026.1 Industry Tables

There are 41 middle-skill occupations within Advanced Manufacturing. Exhibit 2 lists the top 10 middle-skill occupations in Butte and Glenn counties with the most annual openings.

Exhibit 2. Middle-skill occupations with the most annual openings

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	Avg Annual Openings
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	254	262	27
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	219	238	22
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	150	160	20
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	208	199	19
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	107	100	12
Machinists	94	82	8
Printing Press Operators	57	58	7
Control and Value Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door	42	42	4
Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	43	34	3
Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	22	22	3

Source: Lightcast 2026.1 QCEW employees, Non-QCEW employees, and Self-Employed

There were 142 Advanced Manufacturing middle-skill online job postings in Butte and Glenn counties from March 2025 to February 2026. Of the 41 middle-skill occupations aligned with the Advanced Manufacturing sector, 19 occupations had job postings. Exhibit 3 lists the occupations by number of job postings.

Exhibit 3. Job postings by occupation

Occupation	Number of Job Postings	Share of Postings	Median Advertised Salary
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	27	20%	\$26.09
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	20	16%	\$31.02
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	18	13%	\$27.45
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	10	7%	\$24.98

Occupation	Number of Job Postings	Share of Postings	Median Advertised Salary
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	9	6%	\$38.03
Millwrights	7	5%	\$28.92
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	7	5%	\$34.22
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	6	4%	\$19.50
Precision Instrument and Equipment Repairers, All Other	6	4%	\$24.00
Machinists	5	3%	\$27.50
Total	142	100%	\$27.45

Source: Lightcast 2026.1 Job Postings Analysis

Exhibit 4 shows the job titles with the most job postings for Advanced Manufacturing in Butte and Glenn county.

Exhibit 4. Job titles with the most job postings

Job Titles	Number of Job Postings
Instrument Technicians	6
Welders/ Fabricators	5
Maintenance Technicians/ Millwrights	4
Production Supervisors	4
CNC/ Manual Machinists	4
Brewers	4
Safety Coordinators	4

Exhibit 5 lists the top employers with most job postings in Advanced Manufacturing in Butte and Glenn county.

Exhibit 5. Employers with the most job postings

Employer	Number of Job Postings
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.	8
Pacific Coast Producers	7

Employer	Number of Job Postings
Flynn's Welding and Machine Shop	5
Sierra Pacific Industries	4
Graphic Packaging International	3
Carriere Family Farms	3
Butte County	3

Exhibit 6 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of education in middle-skill job postings in Butte and Glenn counties.

Exhibit 6. Employer-preferred education levels for the studied occupations

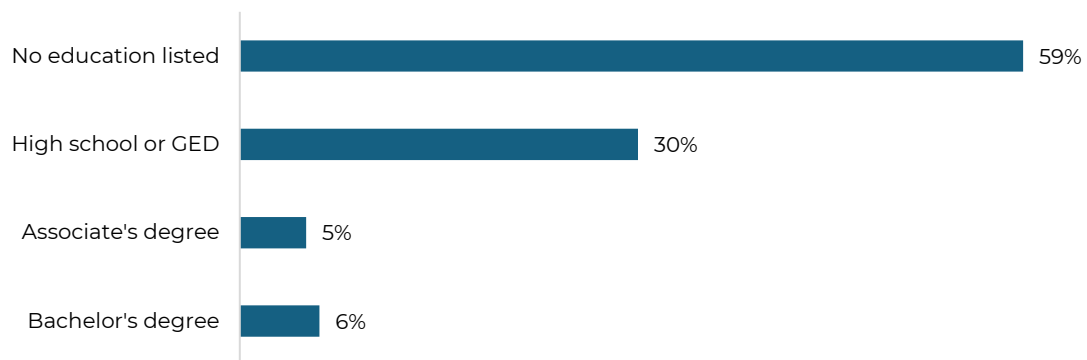


Exhibit 7 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of experience in middle-skill job postings in Butte and Glenn counties.

Exhibit 7. Employer-preferred experience levels for the studied occupations

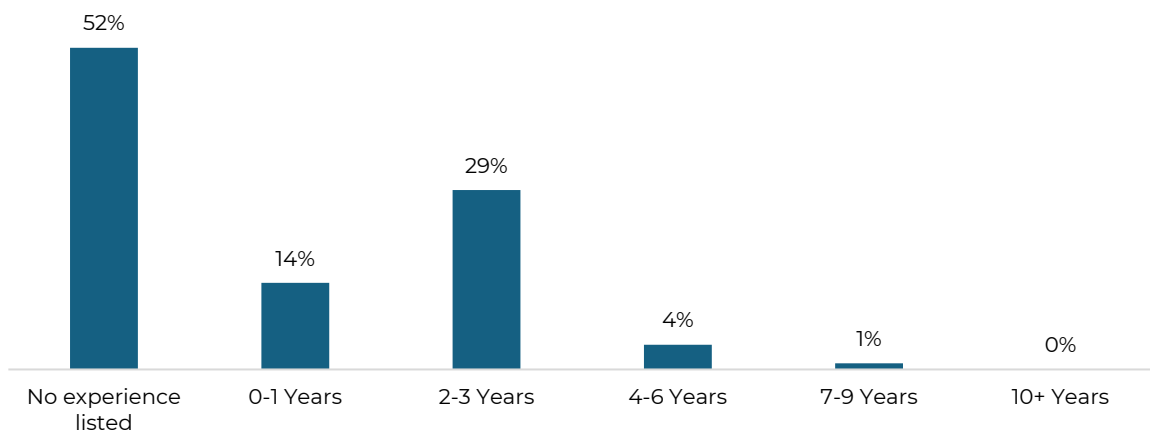


Exhibit 8 shows the top 10 specialized skills among all the job postings in Butte County and Glenn County for middle-skill occupations in Advanced Manufacturing. The far-right column lists if a program currently exists within the community college system focused on that particular skill or certification. Other skills, like 3D modeling, CADD, or ERP software, appeared in only a couple of job postings.

Exhibit 8. Top Specialized Skills by posting

Skill	Number of Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings	CCC Active Training Program
Lifting Ability	48	34%	no
Quality Management (Quality Assurance/ Quality Control)	42	29%	yes
Welding ¹	37	26%	yes
Forklift	28	19%	yes
Blueprinting	27	18%	no
Continuous Improvement Process	22	16%	no
Occupational Safety and Health Administration	20	14%	yes
Hand Tools/ Power Tools	17	12%	no
Standard Operating Procedures	12	8%	no
Computer Numerical Control	11	7%	yes

Of the skills with existing community college training programs, Exhibit 9 list the TOP code, CIP code, and most commonly offered types of award for each program.

Exhibit 9. Aligned active programs for advanced manufacturing skills

Focus Area	TOP Code	CIP Code	Most Common Programs
Quality Control	0956.80* Industrial Quality Control	15.0702 Quality Control Technology/Technician.	16 to less than 30-unit certificate
Welding	0956.50* Welding Technology	48.0508 Welding Technology/Welder.	A.S. Degree, 16 to less than 30-unit certificate, Noncredit program
Forklift	0510.00* Logistics and Materials Transportation	52.0203 Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management.	Noncredit program

¹ Most job postings (89% of all postings mentioning welding) did not specify the type of welding. Of those that did, MIG followed by stick welding were the most common.

Focus Area	TOP Code	CIP Code	Most Common Programs
Occupational Safety and Health	0956.70* Industrial and Occupational Safety and Health	15.0703 Industrial Safety Technology/Technician.	A.S. Degree
Computer Numerical Control	0956.30* Machining and Machine Tools	48.0501 Machine Tool Technology/Machinist.	A.S. Degree, 16 to less than 30-unit certificate

Conclusion

There are opportunities for additional programs within Advanced Manufacturing that align with the in-demand skills and jobs in Butte and Glenn counties. These include low-unit certificates and noncredit programs. New programs should prioritize integrating the top found in job postings to align programs with employer preferences.