



I would like to commend the Biden Administration, especially Secretary Raimondo and entire team at the CHIPS program office for the incredible progress made implementing the CHIPS and Science Act these last 18 months.

IPC is the global trade association for the electronics manufacturing industry. We have more than 3,200 member companies. These companies cover every sector of the industry, including printed circuit board fabrication, electronic assembly, and component manufacturing, as well as their end customers—the original equipment manufacturers.

IPC is a leading standards development body and the largest provider of education and workforce development for the industry. We credential more than 120,000 people per year to work in electronics manufacturing, and we recently secured DoL recognition for 2 federally registered apprenticeship programs.

I would like to make three observations.

1) **We can't solve the workforce problem for slices of the industry.** Building a “semiconductor” workforce is an inherently flawed notion. We need a robust workforce from silicon to systems. Workers in our industry have shared knowledge and seek portability—not just from one company to another but from one industry segment to another. This is a good thing. It strengthens resiliency.

2) **Creating career pathways is key to addressing the workforce challenge.** IPC is building those career pathways in collaboration with the industry along with the portable, stackable, and industry-recognized credentialing. Our work empowers our people to set their own career paths. In an industry as marginalized by government as electronics, greater federal support for building development of these career paths and related curriculum would be welcome.

3) **Real impact means scale and speed.** STEM experiences and workforce training for the dozens will deliver the same results we've achieved over the past 15 years. That's why IPC has prioritized scale and speed over the last five years and we have built an educational platform with greater reach than any other in our industry. This platform—through the apprenticeship program and other mechanisms—has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands annually, bringing them into the industry, and building their skills to advance their careers, and improve the industry as a whole. That's what is required!

The electronics industry is a largely overlooked horizontal that cuts across every sector of our economy. This makes electronics manufacturing at the heart of our nation's biggest goals: innovation, sustainability, economic competitiveness and national security.

I encourage you to visit www.careersinelectronics.com, and would like to offer myself and my passionate staff to assist in any way that may be of help.

Thank you.