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REPORT SHOWS MONTANA'S HIGH TECH AND MANUFACTURING SECTOR GROWING EIGHT TIMES THE RATE OF MONTANA ECONOMY WITH AVERAGE WAGES DOUBLE THE STATE'S MEDIAN

Montana High Tech Business Alliance and the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research survey shows high tech and manufacturing industry is growing rapidly, creating high demand for skilled workers

MISSOULA, Mont., — A UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) survey commissioned by the Montana High Tech Business Alliance (MHTBA) found that high tech jobs in Montana outpace other sectors and hold high impact potential for the future of the state.

Key Findings include:

- **High Tech and Manufacturing wages are twice the median earning per Montana worker.**
- **Projected growth of high tech businesses is 8-10 times the projected statewide growth rate.**
- **Respondents confirm total of \$35 million Montana based capital investment projected for 2015.**
- **The majority of high tech businesses responding favored Montana as an advantageous environment for their business citing a high quality work force.**

“This report shows that high tech and manufacturing companies in Montana generate substantial returns and create high wage jobs,” said Christina Henderson, Director of MHTBA. “For the first time ever, Montana has a benchmark by which to measure the high tech industry’s increasing economic impact. This survey is critical in identifying opportunities for future business growth in our state.”

In Fall of 2014, MHTBA launched Montana’s first ever high tech and manufacturing online jobs portal to help connect Montana’s graduates and skilled workers with the nearly 70 open positions in high tech and manufacturing across the state.

“We have the data telling us of the tremendous potential high tech and manufacturing hold for our state,” said Greg Gianforte, Board Chair of MHTBA and Founder of RightNow Technologies in Bozeman. “Now it’s time to better connect academic preparedness with our economic opportunities to provide the needed skilled workforce and create great livelihoods for our families.”

Among responses, the survey found that while respondents cite a high quality of life (37 percent) an advantage for employee recruitment and a subsequent quality work force as an advantage of being in Montana (26 percent), their businesses struggle to find a large quantity of skilled technology workers (31 percent).

The Montana High Tech Business Alliance is a statewide membership organization made up of 140 firms. The BBER survey, conducted in November and December of 2014, had 78 respondents out of 101 surveyed members with high tech and manufacturing operations in Montana.

The Montana High Tech Business Alliance’s Executive Summary of the report can be found attached. The full report can be made available by request or online at www.MTHighTech.org.

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