



Heart of America[®]

HEART OF AMERICA AND 3M OPEN FUTURE MAKERS LAB TO PREPARE TENNESSEE STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN ENGINEERING, ROBOTICS AND MANUFACTURING

New, reimagined learning environment at Clinton High School supports workforce readiness and Career & Technical Education pathways

Clinton, Tenn. (July 29, 2026) [Heart of America](#) (HOA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming learning spaces for underserved students since 1997, in partnership with global science and manufacturing leader 3M, today announces the opening of the Future Makers Lab by 3M at Clinton High School.

The transformation reimagines a former agriculture facility into a modern learning environment designed to support engineering, robotics, maker education, and Career & Technical Education programming. The project is part of the second year of the Future Makers Lab by 3M initiative, which focuses on creating workforce-aligned learning environments in communities where 3M operates manufacturing facilities.

Serving approximately 946 students, Clinton High School will use the new space to expand hands-on learning opportunities and prepare students for high-demand careers in advanced manufacturing, engineering, robotics, and skilled trades.

“At Heart of America, we believe students deserve learning environments that reflect their potential and prepare them for the future,” said Jill Hardy Heath, President and CEO of Heart of America. “The Future Makers Lab by 3M transforms an outdated space into a launchpad for innovation, exploration, and career readiness. By investing in engineering, robotics, and maker education, we are helping students build the skills, confidence, and experiences that connect education to opportunity.”

The project transformed multiple spaces, including a robotics learning area, engineering classroom, makerspace, office and support spaces. Enhancements include updated flooring, paint, graphics, technology, storage solutions, collaborative furniture and equipment designed to support hands-on learning and real-world problem solving.

The makerspace and engineering classrooms will allow students to engage in project-based learning while gaining exposure to advanced technologies and industry-relevant experiences. Existing welding infrastructure was also incorporated into the design to support future expansion opportunities.

“3M is proud to support the Future Makers Lab by 3M at Clinton High School and help inspire the next generation of problem solvers,” said Michael Stroik, Vice President of Community Impact at 3M. “Students who participate in career and technical education gain highly sought-after skills that are critical to the future workforce. By supporting hands-on learning in engineering, robotics and manufacturing, 3M is investing in students’ success and helping build a stronger future for our hometown communities.”

As part of the project, local 3M employees volunteered alongside Heart of America to help prepare the space for students and educators.

"This transformation creates opportunities our students simply didn't have before," said Robbie Herrell, principal of Clinton High School. "Our engineering, robotics and Career & Technical Education programs continue to grow, and now our learning space reflects the quality of instruction taking place inside them. The new Future Makers Lab by 3M will allow students to collaborate, solve real-world problems, and gain hands-on experience with technologies they'll encounter in college and in the workforce. We're grateful to 3M and Heart of America for investing in our students and believing in their potential."

The Future Makers Lab by 3M at Clinton High School builds on a growing national effort between Heart of America and 3M to create future-ready learning environments that inspire students and strengthen local workforce pipelines.

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About Heart of America

Heart of America is a 501c3 nonprofit that transforms learning spaces and helps bridge resource gaps. Our work focuses on the whole student, knowing that the physical spaces where young people learn are just as important as *what* they are learning. Since 1997, we've worked towards education equity by renovating nearly 1,400 spaces in classrooms, libraries, STEAM labs, college/career centers, school gymnasiums, and community centers, and more. We have provided current resources, including over 4.4 million books, and infused over \$14.3 million in technology. <https://www.heartofamerica.org/>

About 3M

3M (NYSE: MMM) is focused on transforming industries around the world by applying science and creating innovative, customer-focused solutions. Our multi-disciplinary team is working to solve tough customer problems by leveraging diverse technology platforms, differentiated capabilities, global footprint, and operational excellence. Discover how 3M is shaping the future at 3M.com/news.

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