NEW Manufacturing Alliance
INDUSTRY 4.0 TASK FORCE – MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2024 – 1:30 PM

Aslinn Merriman, with Voith, was introduced as the new Industry 4.0 Task Force chair.

PRESENTATION: 2024 AI & Business Growth – Adoption, Trends, & Landscape, Luis Salazar, Founder & CEO of Social Progress & Economic Growth – AI4SP.org and Kalees Meckling, Microsoft

We are all on this revolutionary journey. AI4SP works to demystify Generative AI for small / mid-size organizations and academia, enabling them to tap into AI's extensive tools. 76% of organizations are familiar with AI, while 13% are very familiar. 52% of organizations are using AI (15% unknowingly, 37% knowingly). The vast majority of organizations using AI are pleased with it. AI is often referred to as *business value*. Early trends see 20% of tasks or roles being automated.

AI is affordable and you do not have to be a scientist to use it. Misconceptions are the core reason for not using AI such as cost or ROI. Other reasons for not using AI are trust, skill / awareness gaps. Privacy and security concerns are valid, due to AI working in the Cloud. It is important to get AI from a reputable vendor that ensures your data stays confidential.

15% of AI adoption is driven by updates to existing software. 60% of AI adoption is driven by team members, not management. AI focus:
- Automation to reduce costs.
- Automate marketing, sales, & client interactions to increase revenue.
- Employee recruitment, retention & scheduling.
- Data-driven decision-making.
- Optimizing training & upskilling.

Start embracing AI by identifying repetitive and time-consuming tasks to automate and unleash your team's potential. Leverage your team's energy and provide a framework for responsible and safe AI adoption. There are thousands of apps to choose from or an organization can create their own. Steps to AI adoption:
- Find your baseline by using the free AI Compass.
- Get a no-cost AI consultation with a Microsoft expert.
- Explore AI use cases to see how AI can be applied to your organization.
- Gather insights from all employees.
- Pick a task to automate as a pilot.
- Check your data for preparedness, structure, security, and governance.
- Choose AI tools and test them with safe data. Determine a budget and milestones.
- Create your AI responsible framework. Do a legal compliance check and confirm your AI tools uphold your privacy and ethical standards. Examine potential biases.
- Implement AI pilots. Draft a rollout plan, allocate resources, train your team, and update privacy policies.
- Monitor performance. Set clear objectives, perform routine checks, get continuous feedback from stakeholders, customers, team members, and partners.
- Share outcomes and welcome feedback. Assess how new AI features access your organization's data. Stay updated through trusted sources. Continually revisit and reevaluate ideas.

Q&A - Mike Race, with NWTC, asked the direction to go to build custom solutions that are affordable. Luis Salazar recommended using Azure AI, as it is regarded as safe and allows you to test the data. Luis shared that it should not take more than 'a couple thousand dollars and one week to solve a problem'.

Steve Joly, with ProAmpac, shared that it takes resources and an AI team; however, not everyone has the needed skill set. Steve's organization would like to use AI to forecast sales and production. Luis shared that some software, including Quickbooks, have AI embedded, allowing you to talk to your data.

Aslinn Merriman shared that you can ask ChatGPT how to do things, like how to code something. It becomes easier as your AI journey progresses.

How Small & Mid-sized Organizations are Using AI | Presented In-person by Microsoft in Partnership with NEWMA | March 20, 2024 | at FVTC | 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM | Registration will be available in February.

- *First Hour - AI & Industry 4.0: General Overview, Landscape, Best Practices, Trends, & Opportunities. Plus, a local manufacturer's Industry 4.0 story will be shared. Special guest is Luis Salazar.*
- *Second Hour - Includes a working session using the AI Compass, real-time benchmarking of the group versus the small & medium sized business sector in the US.*
- *Third Hour - 1:1 speed dating sessions will have each attendee discuss their AI Compass-generated plan with an Industry 4.0 Task Force member or one of the invited local partners.*

FINALIZE INDUSTRY 4.0 SURVEY
Attendees reviewed the updated survey for potential changes. A question(s) will be added regarding how organizations are using AI. The survey will be launched and accepting responses February 1 to 29, 2024.

UPCOMING ALLIANCE EVENTS
January 16 - First Meeting of NEWMA's New Safety Task Force
January 16 - First Class of NEWMA's AI Training - 2nd Cohort
February 13 – Lunch & Learn, Presented by ErgoFactor
February 15 & 16 – Mind Trekkers at NWTC's Green Bay Campus
February 17 – SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Competition at Ashwaubenon Community Pool
March 6 - Quarterly Full Membership Meeting
March 20 - NEWMA & Microsoft AI Event at FVTC

NEXT MEETING
The next Industry 4.0 Task Force MS Teams meeting is on February 22, 2024, 1:30 p.m.