

**NEW Manufacturing Alliance
K-12 / STEM Task Force Meeting
August 27, 2025 – via MS Teams - 8:30 AM**

ATTENDEES: Aria Ard-Georgia-Pacific, Cindy Bailey-NWTC, Leah Bruess-CESA 6, Kurtis Butrymowicz-Hart Design & Mfg., Brian Conrad-Great Northern Corp., Jack Conroy-GB YMCA, Karen Coonen-Appleton East HS, Becca Droessler-CESA 6, Ann Franz-NEWMA, David Gordon-CESA 7, Dawn Grenzer-Stumpf-Miron Construction, Ben Gunderson-GB YMCA, Steph Heinritz-Menasha HS, Pete L'Empereur-AK Crust/Pep's Pizza, Emily Morris-RGL Logistics, Cyndi Pavelski-CESA 6/Inspire WI, Amber Smetek-GB Packaging, Christina Stelter-Alliance Laundry Systems, Debbie Thompson-NEWMA, Michelle Todzy-LaForce, Danielle Wahlen-CESA 7

EXCELLENCE IN MFG. / K-12 PARTNERSHIPS AWARDS | OCTOBER 28, 2025 | RESCH EXPO

The 2025 Excellence Award winners have been notified. Nominees that did not win will be notified within the next couple of days. [PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS SPONSORSHIPS

WEDC (Business Category), Great Northern Corp. (Education Category) and BW Converting (Community Partnerships Award) have each renewed their \$3,000 sponsorships. Since today's meeting, NWTC has confirmed their \$2,000 sponsorship of the (Tech Ed Teachers Category), enabling up to 25 tech ed teachers to attend the event at no cost.

Members will be asked to sponsor the event, with the proceeds going to the Alliance's Scholarship Fund.

\$1,000 Gold sponsors will have a one page ad in the 2025 Excellence Awards publication, in addition to two free tickets to the 2025 Excellence Awards dinner / program. The publication is sent electronically to the full membership and regional schools.

\$300 Silver sponsors will have their organization's logo featured in the 2025 Excellence Awards publication.

The Alliance will be funding \$65,000 in college scholarships for the 2025/2026 school year. Since its inception, the Alliance has funded over \$600,000 in college scholarships.

PLAN: 2025 OCTOBER IS MANUFACTURING MONTH EVENTS

Plant Tours - The Alliance pays for one bus per school to attend an October plant (manufacturer) tour. Ann has a list of 34 companies that are interested in offering plant tours. There is an array of responses among hosting students, teachers, and parents. Companies have until 8/31 to confirm their participation.

Ann will be working with educators to develop a plant tour signup form. This will include a list of the companies, their available plant tour days / times, and number of attendees they can accommodate. The form will try to maximize attendance at the plant tours. This could mean allowing more than one school per tour, based on the number of students the company can accommodate. When finalized, the signup form will be sent to the regional schools. For 2026, Ann will request that manufacturers not schedule tour times during the lunch hour, unless they can provide lunch for the students.

October 28 - ACP Roundtable Meeting – at the Resch Expo – *(This is the same day as the 2025 Excellence Awards. ACP Roundtable attendees are welcome to attend the networking reception, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., even if they are not attending the dinner.)* The format and potential questions for the ACP Roundtable were discussed.

Members are still interested in inviting current YA students to provide feedback. 5 or 6 YA students that represent a variety of companies and careers would be optimal. Questions the panel could be asked:

- What are you looking for in your YA experience?
- What got you interested in YA and manufacturing fields?

- What impressed you with the business you are currently working at for your YA experience?
- What could businesses do better?
- What was your outlook on manufacturing prior to getting involved? What is your outlook on manufacturing now? How did your outlook change?
- What persuaded you to pursue a manufacturing pathway?
- How does YA help you develop some life skills?
- What are your post high school plans?

After the ½ hour to 40 minute panel, each YA student could go to a table for additional conversation. Ann will work with the YA coordinators to finalize the questions and recruit students. Each YA student that attends will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. Students interested in staying for the Excellence Awards dinner / program will receive a free ticket to attend, in addition to being recognized. Ann will begin promoting the event to the schools in early September. **Manufacturer members were reminded to complete the [Manufacturers K-12 Outreach Survey](#).**

October 28 - Excellence in Mfg./K-12 Partnerships Awards, at the Resch Expo – [PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

October 29 - Manufacturing First Student Career Exploration, at the Resch Expo - Volunteers will be needed. Upon exhibitors confirming their participation, the number of students that can be accommodated will be determined. By our 9/25/2025 meeting, Ann will know the number of students and volunteers needed.

YA VIDEO UPDATE

The video is moving forward. Scripts will be completed in September, with filming in November. Six companies are participating in the video - Fincantieri Marine Group, Lindquist Machine Corp., Marion Body Works, Nercon, Robinson Inc., and Sargento. The video will debut in December, possibly in conjunction with the 12/17 quarterly full membership meeting at FVTC.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

- **September 11** – Virtual Lunch & Learn – Noon to 1:00 PM – Technology for Green Supply Chain Management Practices & Their Impact on Operational & Environmental Efficiency – Presented by UW-Green Bay – [REGISTER](#) for this free event.
- **September 11** – Taps + Tours Business after Hours at Sure Controls, Greenville, WI – 3:30 to 5:30 PM – [REGISTER](#) for this free event.
- **September 16** – Virtual Lunch & Learn – Noon to 1:00 PM – Identifying & Responding to Workplace Impairment: Signs & Symptoms Training for Supervisors – Presented by ARCPoint Labs – [REGISTER](#) for this free event.
- **September 18 to November 13** – Data Analytics Training – This marks the 12th cohort with over 600 members having already taken this highly rated training. – [REGISTER](#) for this free training.
- **September 30** - Virtual Lunch & Learn – **Work Release** – presented by Sergeant Joseph Bonnin, of Sanger B. Powers Correctional Center – Noon to 1:00 PM – [REGISTER](#) for this free event.
- **October 2** – Kickoff to Manufacturing Month & Live Podcast at Schreiber Foods, 8:30 to 10:00 AM

NEXT MEETING

The next K-12 / STEM Task Force meeting is on **Thursday**, September 25, 2025, 8:30 a.m., via MS Teams.