

NEW Manufacturing Alliance

K-12 taskforce meeting

November 12, 2025

Teams

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Leah Bruess-CESA 6, Kurtis Butrymowicz-Hart Design & Mfg., Brian Conrad-Great Northern Corp., Becca Droessler-CESA 6, Paul Endter-ATECH, Ann Franz-NEWMA, Karen Gibbs-GPS Educational Partners, Dawn Grenzer-Stumpf-Miron Construction, Ben Krull-Wolf River YA, Emily Morris-RGL Logistics, Cyndi Pavelski-CESA 6/Inspire WI, Michelle Todzy-LaForce, Eric Ward-Wrightstown High School, Corey Wollin-CESA 7

Topic 1: Recap Excellence in Mfg./K-12 Partnerships Awards

- The event netted \$18,000 for the Alliance's Scholarship Fund Inc.
- AriensCo. donated a \$2,400 snowblower and Bill Jartz got a final bid of \$2,500!
- This year's attendance was 206 people.
- No changes are needed for next year's event.

Topic 2: Recap October is Manufacturing month events (ie ACP Roundtable & Mfg. First Expo)

CESA coordinators were thanked for recruiting the impressive YA panel for the ACP Partnerships meeting on October 28, 2025. Eric shared that he liked that he heard from a student that wasn't going to go in a career field that they were doing for their YA experience, but their employment gave them critical employability skills. Students shared that their YA experience gave them relevant work experience and helped them see the need for their core classes to be successful in the workplace. Some of the panel represented females in nontraditional careers like welding and other YA experiences in manufacturing that are not only in production like sales and HR. For next year's event, there is the desire to bring more students to the event to be part of the roundtable discussions.

Manufacturing First student portion had 161 students registered for the event. Emily with RGL shared how impressed she was with the students that attended. Next year, we may want to have the students go to the hallway instead of the center stage area to regroup to get their bus.

Topic 3: Update YA video

YA video called, 'Ready, Set, Work: Pro Tips for Your First 90 Days' is now completed. Just a few tweaks remaining. The video was shared with the taskforce. Although the video is targeted at YA students, it is relevant for any younger adult entering the workforce. The video will be shared with YA coordinators and counselors throughout the state. The video will be debuted at the Alliance's Quarterly Membership meeting on Dec. 17, 2025. The video will also be available to Alliance members to share with their younger new hires.

Topic 4: KI discussion on high school youth program - Tabled.

Topic 5: 2026 STEM events at NWTC & FVTC

NEWMA is financially supporting both NWTC & FVTC's STEM Fest & Mind Trekkers. Both events are for middle school students with between 2,000 – 3,000 students in attendance over the 2 days.

NWTC's event is January 28 & 29, 2026

FVTC's event is February 19 & 20, 2026

Companies interested in having a booth for the 2 day event is \$500 per college. Interested companies should contact Ann. Both events will need volunteers from this taskforce to help out.

Topic 6: Upcoming NEWMA events and programs

December 17 at 8:30 a.m. is the next Quarterly Membership meeting at FVTC.

Topic 7: Next agenda for January 14 at 8:30 a.m. via Teams (change usual meeting time to 2nd Wednesday of the month instead of fourth Wednesday).