

**NEW Manufacturing Alliance
K-12/STEM taskforce meeting**

January 14, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Lindsay Allen-CESA 7, Cindy Bailey-NWTC, Leah Bruess-CESA 6, Kurtis Butrymowicz-Hart Design & Mfg., Karen Coonen- Appleton School District, Brian Conrad-Great Northern Corp., Becca Droessler-CESA 6, Ann Franz-NEWMA, David Gordon-CESA 7, Nick Heiting-Trilliant Foods, Brooke Holbrook-CESA 8, John Katers -UWGB, Pete L'Empereur-AK Crust, Emily Morris-RGL Logistics, Sara Peotter-Belmark, Nick Rolf-SolutionsX, Myke Schmit-NWTC, Sarah Scharenbrock-NWTC, Shannon Seamen-Oshkosh Chamber, Christina Stelter-Alliance Laundry Systems, Michelle Todzy-LaForce, Anne Troka-Sargento

Topic 1: 2025 K-12 taskforce recap

2025 Activities

- Created [Ready, Set, Work: Pro Tips for Your First 90 Days](#) video.
- Updated / administered the manufacturing outreach survey.
- 2nd annual YA Award that was given to students working at Lindquist Machine & Therma-Tron-X

2025 Events

- January 29 & 30 – Mind Trekkers with 2,500 middle school students participating in the STEM expo that was sponsored by NEWMA.
- March 1 - SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Competition – 20 teams competed. Aldo Leopold team won first place and a Brillion team took second place.
- April 15 & 16: Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce' Future Fox Cities Career Expo, in which 2,000 2025 All Stars were given out to the students, event sponsored by NEWMA.
- May 8 - NEWMA *Graduating Seniors Hiring Fair* at NWTC. Approximately 80 students attended from Green Bay, Pulaski and De Pere area schools.
- June 12 – Vitamins & Toilet Paper Tours & Dialogue featuring Nature's Way & Geogia Pacific for 16 educators.
- August 8: Presented at the statewide Career Readiness Summit in Wisconsin Dells.
- October 28 – ACP Partnerships Meeting at the Resch Expo – 76 Registrants
- October 28 – Excellence Awards– 206 Registrants - \$18,000 was netted for NEWMA's scholarship fund.
- October 29 – Manufacturing First Expo & Conference at the Resch Expo hosted 1,100 attendees, 161 high school students, and over 200 exhibitors.
- Month of October – NEWMA sponsored hundreds of regional students for company tours.

Topic 2: Plan 2026 K-12 taskforce activities

January 28 & 29 – NWTC STEM Expo

February 19 & 20 – FVTC's Mind Trekkers

March– Nominations go out for YA Award

March 6 – Unstoppable Women Leadership Summit – Pierce Mfg./CESA 6

March 7 – SeaPerch underwater robotic competition

April 1 – 12th grade school hiring event

April 15 - Future Fox Cities Career Expo

June – Tech Ed Teacher event

October 29 - ACP Partnerships Roundtable – invite high school students

October 29 – Excellence in Mfg./K-12 Partnerships Awards

October 30 – Manufacturing First Expo & Conference

Another activity would be to create a one page overview of all of the 12th grade hiring events held in the region that would then be shared with NEWMA members. Members are asked to send Ann information about the job fairs with contact information/registration. She will then send it out to the membership once compiled.

Topic 3: STEM events in January & February

Members are encouraged to volunteer for the upcoming events.

Topic 4: SeaPerch – March 7, 2026

Members are encouraged to volunteer for the upcoming events.

Topic 5: 2026 Excellence Awards changes – Ann shared that she would like to change a portion of the upcoming Excellence Awards. In the past, the NEWMA All Stars were also recognized at the dinner. The Awards dinner is held in October, which is over a year after the winner was initially informed that they had won. Instead, we would host a separate event for the All Stars in conjunction with the NEWMA YA Awards in May. This event would inspire high school students as they see adults being recognized as All Stars and see the value of these careers. Instead of 2 there would be 4 YA students recognized with all nominees being invited to the event. This would also include all of the All Star nominees as well. The taskforce supported the new event as well as possibly changing the venue for the October Excellence Awards due to cost and not needing as large of a space. The event as well as the nomination form will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Topic 6: Next agenda for February 11 at 8:30 a.m. via Teams meeting