

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

March 11, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: **Aria Ard**-Georgia-Pacific, **Cindy Bailey**-NWTC, **Leah Bruess**-CESA 6, Kurtis **Butrymowicz**-Hart Design & Mfg., **Brian Conrad**-Great Northern Corp., **Ann Franz**-NEWMA, **Pete L'Empereur**-AK Crust, **Karen Gibbs**-GPS Educational Partners, **Nick Heiting**-Trilliant Foods, **Brooke Holbrook**-CESA 8, **Tania Kilpatrick**-CESA 6, **Emily Morris**-RGL Logistics, **Cyndi Pavelski**-CESA 6/Inspire WI, **Amber Smetek**-Green Bay Packaging, **Christina Stelter**-Alliance Laundry Systems, **Michelle Todzy**-LaForce and **Anne Troka**-Sargento Foods

Topic 1: 2026 Winter/Spring NEWMA sponsored events

January 28 & 29 – NWTC STEM Expo – 2,000 registered

February 19 & 20 – FVTC's Mind Trekkers – 1,500 registered

March 6 – Empowering Women in Manufacturing at Pierce Manufacturing – 100 registered

March 7 – SeaPerch Underwater Robotics competition – 15 teams from Appleton, Ashwaubenon, DePere, Elkhart Lake, Green Bay, Washington Island

March– Nominations go out for YA Award – we have 16 submissions, April 1 is the deadline.

April 7 & 8 – Statewide Skills USA - 2,100 registered

April 15 - Future Fox Cities Career Expo – 1,800 registered

Topic 2: Plan Future All Star YA Awards on May 6, 2026 at WI Timber Rattlers

Today's meeting is to finalize the details for the May 6 event, which is also being planned by the Communications taskforce. The Awards dinner will be held at the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers stadium. The event is recognizing the 2026 All Stars and Future All Stars YA winners. Plus we will be inviting companies and their nominees that didn't win attend, both 2026 All Star applicants and 2026 Future All Star YA nominees.

Event starts at 5 p.m. with fun interactive events featuring engagement with the 2026 All Stars.

Ideas from the Communications taskforce for the programming before the dinner:

- Name that tool with winners getting a tool.
- Have a measuring contest with calipers.
- Virtual weld competition.
- Foundry in a box activity and/or paper making activity.
- For the food manufacturers that have a winner, a table of their product to taste.

Other ideas from taskforce:

1. Have the All Star companies give logo swag to the YA winners.
2. Create a custom jersey to give to the YA winners.
3. On the tables, have a handout on what the companies make that have a winner or a tables around the room with products that are made by the companies that have employees being recognized at the night's event.

Ideas from Timber Rattlers:

Special behind the scenes of the ballpark for the winners starting at 4 p.m.

Giant Jenga – play against an All Star, beat the All Star and get a logo swag gift

Connect 4 - play against an All Star, beat the All Star and get a logo swag gift

Corn Hole - play against an All Star, beat the All Star and get a logo swag gift

Mascot appearance - \$100

Popcorn machine during social hour - \$175

Picture of each All Star being on the big screen on the field

Food: Lemonade bar with flavor pumps and Brisket

Ideas from K-12/STEM taskforce:

Create a poster or baseball 'rookie card' for the YA Award winners.

Encourage YA mentor to attend and introduce winner.

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. then Awards program.

For the Awards presentation, have a portion of the All Stars video shown as an introduction for each winner. The YA winners will first be introduced and then the 2026 All Stars will be given their award.

Taskforce members will receive the nominations to be judged on April 2nd. Those taskforce members that are YA coordinators will not judge.

Topic 3: Discuss October is Manufacturing Month programming

There was a discussion on offering industry tours in October working in partnership with the CESAs.

Topic 4: Next agenda for April 10 at 8:30 a.m. via Teams meeting **this is on Friday, due to having a few more days to read the nominations.**