

Talent Task Force Meeting

April 28, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Heather Marconi-HART Design & Mfg., Marney Verhasselt-NWTC, Lisa Pichotta-Nicolet Plastics, Derek Jablonicky-DWD, Christian Steier-ProSolutions, Kelli Karpinski-MPTC, Paige Vanden Bush-Sartori, Raisa Ramas-Find Joy Off the Path, Steve Van Remortel-MyTalentPlanner, Cassie Diedrick-Titletown Mfg., Dawn Rall-FVTC, Mike White-Secchi, Bobbi Miller-BAWDB, Darren Wilcox-AK Crust, Trinity Korth-UW Madison, Ann Franz-NEWMA and Sarah Putbress-NEWMA

Topic 1: Future of Work – Employee Retention recap & brainstorm 2027 Future of Work

There were 214 people registered for the event. Task force members were very pleased with the content as well as heard from attendees how much value they found in the event. There was discussion on having the event be an all day instead of half day event, although we may have more people attend ½ day instead of being out of the office all day. Another concern was the cost. An issue heard is attendees would like to see more than 1 breakout session that is being held concurrently with another hot topic. One positive is that the content offered in the breakout sessions are of high interest. Breakout session speakers that it was very helpful having someone help with the coordination in each room. This year's event had good attendance in all of the breakout sessions. Several people commented on how much they found value in the keynote speaker, Kathy Miller. There was discussion on having speaker surveys given at the end of a presentation. A few of the presenters asked for feedback from their presentation. All agreed that FVTC's DJ Bordini Center was an excellent venue.

The taskforce discussed topics for the 2027 summit:

- Team Building (topic including how do the office work more closely with the production area)
- Career & Employee Development for employees (without a promotion)
- Generational Differences
- Servant Leadership
- AI
- Create tracks for HR, OPS and CFOs

One of the attendees, a manufacturing president thought having an event for C-suite would be of benefit. More discussion on next year's topic and a special event for C-suite will be addressed at the next taskforce meeting.

Topic 2: Faculty plant tours in May 2026

Ann did not get enough interest from the membership in hosting faculty, so the event was cancelled. The taskforce discussed promotion ideas for Internship Draft Day including reaching out to past students to be student ambassadors for this year's event.

Topic 3: Training grants

Discussion on training topics included leadership, AI, change management, succession planning for upcoming grant opportunities.

Topic 4: NEWMA upcoming events and programs

May 6: 2026 All Star & Future All Star YA Awards dinner at the Timber Rattlers

May 13: Taps + Tours Business after Hours at Fiberglass Solutions

June 3: President's Cup Scholarship Golf Scramble at Blackwolf Run

June 11: All About Boats! Tours & Dialogue for Tech Ed Teachers at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding & Burger Boat

June 17: NEWMA 20th anniversary membership meeting

Topic 5: Next steps & agenda for the July 9 at 8:30 a.m. at Hart Design & Manufacturing