

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

August 12, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Christina Stelter, Alliance Laundry; Pete L'Empereur, AK Pizza; David Gordon, CESA 7; John Katers, UWGB and Make48; Kurtis Butrymowicz, HART; Ann Fanz, NEWMA; Cindy Bailey, NWTC; Amber Smetek, Green Bay Packaging; Karen Gibbs, GPS Educational Partners; Brian Conrad, Great Northern Corp.; Sarah Putbress, NEWMA; Sara Peotter, Belmark; Benjamin Krull, Bonduel School District

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

- **15 Year Anniversary Program Additions:**
 - Invite previous year's winners to attend for free:
 - Have them introduce the Award that they received.
 - Not all awards will have a previous winner hand them out
 - Another option is to have one representative from industry and one from education that was awarded the first year speak for 2 minutes of the value they received from receiving the award. Potential for education is Steve Meyer.
- **Sponsorships** (Fundraiser for Scholarships):
 - This event serves as 1 of 2 fundraisers for the Alliance's Scholarship Fund.
 - Gold (\$3,000): BW Converting confirmed. Seeking sponsors for Business category – asking last year's sponsor Great Northern Corp.
 - Tech Ed Teacher (\$1,500): NWTC is sponsoring, which includes 20 free tickets for Tech Ed teachers.
 - Gold (\$1,000): Includes a full-page ad in the Excellence publication and 2 free tickets to the dinner.
 - Silver (\$300): Includes a logo on the publication's back cover.
 - Goal for this event to net \$10,000.
- **Networking Reception:**
 - **Time:** Starts at 5:00 PM (dinner at 6:00 PM).
 - Time reserved for networking after roundtable: 4:30-5 PM
 - **Rationale:** Creates a dedicated, focused window for industry-education connections before the main dinner crowd arrives.
 - **Ideas:**
 - Use name tags to identify roles (e.g., manufacturer, educator).
 - Implement a low-pressure activity (e.g., raffle ticket for talking to 3 new people) to encourage interaction.
 - **Task for Sept Meeting:** Decide on activity for networking event.
- **Logistics:**
 - **Venue:** Great North Common's Fire & Fur event center.
 - **Dinner Price:** \$60/person (down from \$70).
 - Ann to speak with Bill Jartz about being emcee
 - Also reach out to Ariens about snow blower donation

Topic 2: Plan ACP Partnerships Roundtable meeting

- **Repositioning:** The event is retitled to "Connect to Early Talent" from "ACP Partnership Roundtable" to clearly communicate its value to manufacturers.
- **Goal:** Increase manufacturer participation in Youth Apprenticeship (YA) programs.
- **Format:**
 - **Panel 1** (Students): Current YA students share experiences.
 - **Panel 2** (Employers): Best practices from companies of varying sizes (small, medium, large).
 - **Roundtables:** Facilitated small-group discussions.
- **Engagement Tools:**

- **Live Q&A:** Use Slido with a QR code for anonymous audience questions.
 - Include trivia questions about YAs
- **Pre-Event Resources:** Share a slide deck defining acronyms (ACP, CESA) and a link to resources.
- **Student Participation:**
 - **Recruitment:** Seagrave (YA award winner) and Therma-Tron-X (YA mentor) will bring students.
 - **Incentive:** Attending students receive a \$50 gift certificate.
 - Recruit students by region (CESAs will working on this)
- **Promotion for the event:**
 - Offer a YA Lunch & Learn and promote 10/27 event at the webinar.
 - Invite will go out to Alliance members and schools in early September.

Topic 3: Discuss October is Manufacturing Month – Our Community plant tours

- Survey sent this month asked about willingness to do a tour
 - Ann to follow up at end of August
 - Coordinate between Ann & CESAs

Topic 4: Guide for successful engagement for industry at career fairs, plant tours and hands-on activities handbook

- First meeting in October to work on the handbook.
- **Goal:** Event in Spring to share with membership
- 4-5 people on committee, only 1 manufacturer so far
 - Alliance Laundry will have another manufacturer participant
- Members should let Ann know if they are interested in being on the subcommittee by the end of August.

Topic 5: Upcoming NEWMA events

- September 3 – NEWMA Data Analytics course begins
- Manitowoc County video release in September
- September 9 – NCMMA Associate Member Meeting at [Cruisers Yachts](#) Pulaski location from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- September 15 – Last day to register as an Employer for [Internship Draft Day](#)
- September 23 – Cybersecurity Conference (afternoon event)
- **October 27th Excellence Awards & Connect to Early Talent**
- **October 28th Manufacturing First Expo & Conference**
- Today – Pentagon call: Ann is working with them to secure funding for SeaPerch event & create HS version of event – water drones (ROVs) to find shipwrecks in Lake Michigan

Topic 6: Next agenda for **September 9 at 8:30 a.m. via Teams**