

Talent Task Force Meeting
August 13, 2026
Hart Design & Manufacturing
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Minutes

ATTENDEES: Ann Franz, NEWMA; Heather Marconi, HART; Paige Vanden Bush, Sartori; Tammy Behringer, Lakeshore College; Marney Verhasselt, NWTC; Jess Kofler, UWGB; Cassie Diedrick, Titledown Mfg.; Matt Theiss, AHEAD Staffing; Dawn Rall, FVTC; Raisa Ramas, Find Joy Off the Path; Craig Coleman, Forward Services

Topic 1: Training grants update

- NEWMA submitted a DWD training grant request totaling approximately \$85,000.
 - Interest included 13 companies for AI training, approximately 50 participants for change management and 22 participants for predictive maintenance training.
 - An award decision is expected in September.
- NEWMA is also in early conversations with a new organization exploring significant community investments.
 - No immediate funding opportunity has been confirmed, but the potential could be substantial.

Topic 2: Internship Draft Day on November 4, 2026

- The 12th annual Internship Draft Day will be held November 4 at Lambeau Field. The event time has shifted to 2:00-5:00 p.m. this year.
- **Employer registration is August 4 – September 15**
 - A \$1,000 sponsorship option includes a larger booth, logo placement on event T-shirts and screens, and recognition on the manufacturing.careers webpage.
- **Student registration is September 22 – October 31**
- Last year, approximately 200 students from about 15 colleges attended, with roughly 50 employers offering more than 200 paid internships.
- Recruitment strategies discussed included:
 - Ask colleges to send direct invitations to students and faculty, especially engineering and business departments.
 - Promote through Handshake, student organizations, Greek life, collegiate SkillsUSA chapters and professional groups such as Society of Women Engineers.
 - Use posters, campus digital signage and QR-code postcards that employers can share at fall career fairs.
 - Provide members with ready-to-share language and materials for employee communications, parent networks and social media.
 - Ask employers attending college career fairs to promote Draft Day to students who may not be a fit for their own openings.
 - Continue working with schools to contact registered students before the event and reduce no-shows.
- Amazing Events will attend several college job fairs to promote Draft Day.
 - NEWMA will also reconnect with prior participants who have not yet graduated.
- Potential student incentives:
 - Lambeau Field/Hall of Fame tickets or tours
 - Packers representative, recent draft pick or other recognizable guest announce the winners, if available at no cost.
- **Task force members interested in volunteering for the event should contact Ann.**

Topic 3: Brainstorm topics for the next Future of Work Summit in April 2027 (topic ideas listed below)

- Ideas carried forward from the previous meeting:
 - Team building
 - Career and employee development
 - Generational differences
 - Leadership/servant leadership

- AI for talent workflows
- **Decision: “Leading in Times of Change”** as an umbrella theme
 - The theme could incorporate several high-interest areas:
 - Change management and leadership through organizational change.
 - Generational differences, communication styles and connecting employees across age groups.
 - Practical use of personality assessments such as DISC or EQ to improve communication and team effectiveness.
 - Succession planning, skills transfer, internships, co-ops and apprenticeships.
 - AI for HR/talent workflows, including practical tools, policy and legal/IP considerations.
- Sessions should be practical and application-focused.
 - Attendees should leave with tools, resources or concrete next steps rather than only background information.
- **For next meeting:** Training providers and colleges should bring one or two potential session ideas and possible speakers
- Ann will confirm the April 2027 event date – after the meeting I was able to finalize a date with Fox Valley Technical College for April 14, 2027.

Topic 4: Manufacturing Leadership for Frontline Leaders training program update

- NEWMA is working with UW-Green Bay on a frontline leadership training program for manufacturers.
 - The program is expected to launch in November, with promotion beginning in the coming weeks.

Topic 5: NEWMA upcoming events and programs

- Data analytics training will begin again in September and is free for NEWMA members.
- 9/23 Cybersecurity Conference – Black Sheep (Green Bay) 1-3 PM
- Taps + Tours Business After Hours at Aspiro at 4 p.m.
- 10/1 – Live podcast recording at Robinson 8-10 AM

Topic 6: Next meeting: September 10, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at FVTC’s DJ Bordini Center building in room BC 141.