

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

September 8, 2026

Teams

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Christina Stelter, Alliance Laundry; Ann Franz, NEWMA; Christi Lemery, Appleton Area School District; John Katers, UW-Green Bay and Make48; Melissa Schultz, SPVG Marinette; David Gordon, CESA 7; Pete L'Empereur, AK Crust / Pep's Pizza; Anne Troka, Sargento; Kurtis Butrymowicz, HART; Brooke Holbrook, CESA 8; Alex Torres, Oshkosh; Brian Conrad, Great Northern Corp.; Eric Ward, Wrightstown; Sarah Putbress, NEWMA

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

Event Details: Oct 27, 5 – 8 PM. Start time adjusted by 30 mins to create a buffer with the preceding ACP meeting.

- Ariens will donate a snowblower.
- Bill Jartz will be emcee.

Fundraising Goal: Raise \$10k

Note: This year's goal is more challenging.

- The 20-year anniversary scholarship drive may have reduced donor capacity.
- The event lacks a \$3k community award sponsorship, since there were no nominations.

Sponsorship Tiers:

- **Gold (\$1,000):** Full-page ad, 2 tickets.
- **Silver (\$300):** Logo on back cover.

Cocktail Reception (5–6 PM):

- **Goal:** Encourage mingling beyond known groups.
- **Ideas:**
 - "Mix and mingle" bingo card.
 - "Spin the wheel" with sponsor prizes.
 - Drink ticket exchange game (give ticket to a new contact).
 - Interactive stations (e.g., trivia).

Topic 2: Plan Connect to Early Talent Roundtable meeting on 10/27/26

3 – 5 PM (students arrive 5-10 minutes early)

Event Focus: Increase manufacturer participation in Youth Apprenticeship (YA) programs.

Format:

- Panel 1: Current YA students (target: 5 students, with 3 as a minimum).
- Panel 2: Employers (small, medium, large) sharing best practices.
- Facilitated roundtables.
 - Possible Questions (send to Ann top 3-5 picks by 9/18):
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WOAkOb1CvXTw7caO1IYH-UxrGxPtACzDUovSbcDq_Mc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.roqf46q47qis

Student Recruitment:

- CESAs will recruit students, avoiding those from Therma-Tron-X and Briess, who are bringing their own.
- A \$50 Amazon gift card will be provided to each student panelist.

Roundtable & Panel Questions:

- **New Discussion Format:** Assign unique questions to pairs of tables.
 - **Rationale:** Prevents repetitive reports and encourages fresh perspectives when tables share out.
- **Key Topics:**
 - Student perceptions of manufacturing (pre- vs. post-YA).
 - Identifying company culture/fit.
 - AI's role in manufacturing and YA programs.
 - Skills gained from career-based learning.

- **Live Polling:** Use Slido to poll attendees on important skills, comparing employer vs. student perspectives.

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

Community plant tours: 28 companies interested in an October plant tour– Ann will send info to CESA's this week. There were 43 companies completed surveys on their interest in volunteering a variety of school outreach.

Topic 4: Manufacturing First Expo Student program

Student portion: 8:30-10:45 am

Need volunteers: 8 ideally

- Teams of 2 will go on a bus, give an overview, help direct students to stations, chaperone.
 - NEW School of Innovation, Luxemburg-Casco, GPS are confirmed.
 - Appleton high schools will be invited to attend.
 - Brooke – help with connecting to Oconto/Oconto Falls.

Topic 5: Upcoming NEWMA events

9/10 - Taps + Tours – [Aspiro](#) in Green Bay

9/10 - Data Analytics class kicks off – need a LinkedIn Learning account

9/23 - Cyber & Suds conference, 1:30-3:30PM Cybersecurity Speaker & Panel – Free at *Black Sheep event center at 3675 Algoma Road, New Franken*

9/30 – NEWMA Lunch & Learn: YA from noon – 1 p.m. Register for this free webinar:

<https://form.jotform.com/262253537079159>.

Topic 6: Next agenda for November 5, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. via Teams

Subcommittee meeting to develop the employer toolkit on 10/14 at 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. via Teams