

# NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

## Your Source for Monthly Manufacturing News

Questions, comments or feedback? Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts with us by emailing [Info@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Info@NEPIRC.com).

Visit our Website

## Manufacturing News From Our Nation, State and Region

### National News

#### Survey for Manufacturers: NIST's Measurement Science for Manufacturing Robotics

NIST is conducting a brief survey related to automation in manufacturing for its Measurement Science for Manufacturing Robotics (MSMR) program. The NIST MSMR program regularly reaches out to U.S. industry stakeholders to ensure the program goals are aligned with industry needs, and the research outputs are appropriately targeted to benefit U.S. manufacturers. The survey attempts to capture how companies use manufacturing technologies, and the opportunities and challenges faced during normal operations.

If you're a manufacturer, whether you already use automation technologies or not, NEPIRC encourages you to take a few minutes to take the survey by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Participation is completely voluntary, and there is no obligation to answer all questions. No personal or business-identifiable information will be collected. Results of the survey will be collated, and NIST will issue a publicly available report. The survey closes June 30.

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### State News

#### Co-Chairs of PA Manufacturing Advisory Council Featured in Latest Issue of PA DCED's *Pennsylvania Work Smart. Live Happy Magazine*

Eric Joseph Esoda, NEPIRC President & CEO, who also serves as a co-chair of the PA Manufacturing Advisory Council, along with second co-chair, Dan Fogerty, Director of Workforce Development and COO of Berks County Workforce Development Board, were interviewed for an article that appears in the most recent issue of PA DCED's *Pennsylvania Work Smart. Live Happy* magazine. In the article, Eric and Dan share insights about PA's manufacturing industry strengths and workforce.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete piece.

## Pennsylvania Made

WORKFORCE PARTNERS BOLSTER A HISTORICALLY STRONG INDUSTRY - By Kevin Lavin

**T**he Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council is a public-private work group focused on keeping Pennsylvania's manufacturing competitive. One of the ways it does that is by creating a unified voice for manufacturers, telling the story of the state's manufacturing sector - where it is and where it is going.

Co-chairs Eric Esoda, president & CEO of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC) and Dan Fogerty, director of workforce development and COO at Berks County Workforce Development Board, share insights about the state's manufacturing industry strengths and workforce.

**What insights have manufacturers shared with you about doing business in Pennsylvania?**

Industry leaders we speak to favorably comment upon the combination of Pennsylvania's proximity to major markets, lower cost of living and high quality factor, which includes features such as the abundance of outdoor recreation options, the ease of travel, the availability of quality education, the family orientation of our communities and the abundance of regional traditions that celebrate the arts, varying cultures and overall diversity of our Commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, our manufacturers feel as if they are part of the community landscape and part of the fabric of the neighborhood. They feel welcome, appreciated and valued. Their relationships within their communities result in lower turnover, more multi-generational workers, easier talent attraction and more overall support when they expand and grow.

**How is Pennsylvania attracting a new generation of manufacturing workers?**

We're focused on getting our younger generation more informed, involved and engaged in exploring manufacturing careers early on. Programs such as the Gateway "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" student video competition, "Explore the New Manufacturing" in Western Pennsylvania, "Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team" found throughout the eastern half of Pennsylvania and others currently get thousands of middle school, high school and community college students excited about manufacturing career options each year. When coupled with Educator at the Workplace, Manufacturing Apprenticeships, Manufacturing Fellows and other internship and student engagement programs concurrently operating across Pennsylvania, the future of our manufacturing economy is looking particularly bright from a workforce availability vantage point.

Pennsylvania is proving that "this isn't your grandfather's manufacturing" and that there's a place for everyone in tomorrow's high-tech manufacturing sector. NEPIRC



## Regional News

### AMAPHARM Celebrates Ribbon Cutting of First U.S. Manufacturing Facility in Drums, PA

Last month, AMAPHARM, headquartered in Germany, celebrated the ribbon cutting of its first U.S. manufacturing facility, which is located in the CAN DO Corporate Center in Drums. Two NEPIRC team members attended the event to give a warm northeastern PA welcome to AMAPHARM.



AMAPHARM is the manufacturer of the world's first vitamin gummy and has become the world market leader in the distribution of vitaminized fruit gums. The company also distributes dietary supplements in over 90 countries worldwide.

*If your company has great news you'd like us to share with our manufacturing community, please contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com).*

## NEPIRC News

### Be Part of the Largest Gathering of Our Region's Manufacturers; Purchase Your Manufacturing Day Sponsorship & Tickets Today!

Each October, NEPIRC celebrates [Manufacturing Day](#) (MFG DAY) by hosting the largest Manufacturing Best Practices Summit & Expo in northeastern Pennsylvania. Last year, the event attracted close to 400 manufacturing representatives and decision-makers and more than 70 exhibitors ([click here](#) to see photos). This year, we expect even more!



This year's event will take place on Friday, October 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a closing networking reception from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at [Mohegan Pennsylvania](#) (The Casino) in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The agenda includes networking; break out sessions taught by NEPIRC's subject matter experts; remarks by [Representative Dan Meuser](#); keynote speaker [Pete Ruggerio](#), COO of [Crayola](#); a women in manufacturing panel discussion moderated by [Dr. Christine Kiesinger](#), principal of [CEK Communication Consultancy](#); an industry roundtable sponsored the [APEX Accelerator at NEPA Alliance](#); and a CMMC requirements panel discussion sponsored by [InnoTek Computer Consulting](#). More details about all sessions, panels and the keynote will be released soon!

A [MFG DAY sponsorship](#) is the perfect opportunity to put yourself in front of the largest gathering of manufacturing buyers, leaders, owners and decision makers in our region. Sponsorships for 2023 are available but going quickly, so [click here](#) to view the options. Then, contact Chelsey Coslett, Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com) or 570.704.0018 to lock in your sponsorship.

**Can't sponsor but would like to attend? Tickets are only \$50.00 for manufacturers and \$100.00 for non-manufacturers. [CLICK HERE to purchase now!](#)**

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## Catch NEPIRC on *Talking Cents with Dollar Bill*!

In May, Eric Esoda, NEPIRC's President & CEO, and Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, were featured guests on the radio program and podcast, *Talking Cents with Dollar Bill* produced by [Bold Gold Media Group](#) and hosted by Bill McAllister. During the taping, Eric, Chelsey and Bill discussed NEPIRC's mission, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team, upgrading the image of manufacturing, AI and Industry 4.0, safety, additive manufacturing, reshoring and nearshoring and much more.



The episode aired on May 27 on 104.3, but you can listen on demand by [CLICKING HERE](#). Many thanks again to Dollar Bill for inviting NEPIRC to be part of his show.

Pictured above from left to right: Chelsey Coslett, Eric Esoda and Bill McAllister

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## NEPIRC Dream Team Inspires Students

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team Program is making an impact on high school students throughout northeastern, northern and north central Pennsylvania, just a few months after the program was officially introduced.

Since the program's launch earlier this spring, the Dream Team Ambassadors have engaged with 4,935 students at 18 different school career events and classroom presentations throughout many of the counties NEPIRC serves, including Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming.





[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

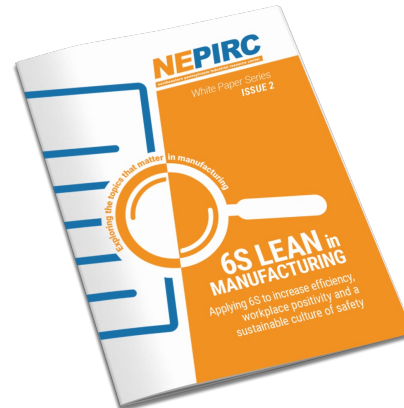
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## Lean 6S Whitepaper is the Latest in NEPIRC's *Exploring the Topics That Matter in Manufacturing Series*

NEPIRC is delighted to offer our latest whitepaper, *6S Lean in Manufacturing*.

This publication simplifies the Continuous Improvement concept of 6S, provides insights into how to successfully launch a 6S effort and provides regional manufacturer 6S success stories.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download your free version of this informative publication.



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## Take Advantage of NEPIRC's Summer Training Programs!

### 8-Week Leadership Development Essentials Program, taught by Leo Gilroy, Director of Strategy & Innovation:

- Thursdays from July 13 to August 31, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

### Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials Seminar, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, August 1, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Community Giving Foundation in Berwick
- Wednesday, August 2, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.
- Tuesday, August 8, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at NEPIRC Towanda
- Tuesday, August 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. virtually via MS Teams
- Wednesday, August 9, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at NEPIRC Hazleton
- Thursday, August 11, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. virtually via MS Teams

### Two-Hour Workplace Safety (all classes run noon to 2:00 p.m.), taught by Brian Matyjevich, Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer:

- Tuesday, August 1 at NEPIRC Effort
- Wednesday, August 2 at NEPIRC Towanda
- Thursday, August 3 at NEPIRC Hazleton

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register.

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## June's NEPIRC Wise Words Book Club Read: *Raise Your Game*

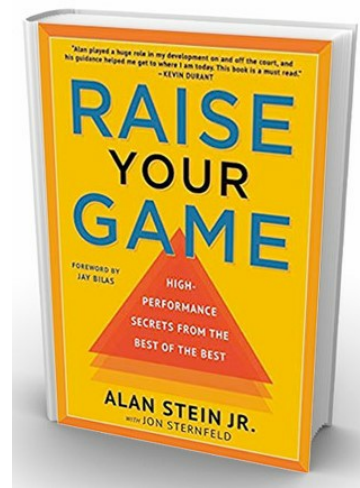
For the month of June [NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club](#) is reading [Raise Your Game](#) by Alan Stein Jr.

In this book, performance coach Alan Stein shares the secret principles used by world-class performers that will help improve your productivity and achieve higher levels of success.



High achievers are at the top of their game because of the discipline they have during the unseen hours. They have made a commitment to establish, tweak, and repeat positive habits in everything they do. *Raise Your Game* examines the top leaders in sports and business and proves that success is a result of the little things we do all the time.

The basic principles provided in *Raise Your Game* are simple, but not easy. We live in an instantly downloadable world that encourages us to skip steps. We are taught to chase what's hot, flashy and sexy and ignore what's basic. But the basics work. They always have and they always will.



*Raise Your Game* will inspire and empower you to commit to the fundamentals, create a winning mindset and progress into new levels of success.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, June 22 from noon to 1:00 p.m. via MS Teams. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up! Even if you don't have a chance to read the book, we'd love for you to join us.

If you're an avid reader looking to connect with other manufacturing leaders, then NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is for you! To learn more, email [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com).

## New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region:

- **Food Safe Geomembrane Bag** – Manufacturer in New Paltz, NY is looking for a strategic partner and supplier to manufacture at 72-inch high X 42-inch diameter food grade geomembrane bag. In use, the bag will be filled with one ton of sand to act as a water filter. The seams of the bag should be RF or thermally welded to withstand the weight and preferred material would be a food grade geomembrane such as BTL or JTL 30 mil or 45 mil with a Tendale Mirafi 180N shroud. Manufacturer must comply with NSF/ANSI 51 and NSF/ANSI 61. The bag will be placed in a harsh environment and be able to withstand tropical sun for a minimum of 10 years.
- **Pop-Open Shopping Bag (Licensing Opportunity)** – Innovator has successfully designed, tested and secured customers (grocery stores and retailers) for the “next generation” of recyclable, reusable shopping bags. Bag is similar to bags currently on the market but feature a pop-open and stand-up design that adds strength to the bag while making it more user-friendly. Manufacturing process includes bending/scrolling wire into a spring configuration, cutting rigid support material to size, sewing Velcro pull tags and a side pocket onto bag material and then sewing together the bag material itself. Assembly consists of sandwiching the springs and support material into the inner bag and finalizing the sewing. Fabric used to prototype was non-woven polypropylene. Spring was .075 spring steel. Bag should be able to hold 55 lbs and stand up on it own when empty and filled with grocery products.

Companies interested in these supplier opportunities are encouraged to contact Eric Esoda, NEPIRC's President & CEO, at [Eric@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Eric@NEPIRC.com).

## NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board

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## **JOB BOARD** **Local Manufacturing** **Job Listings** **Start your NEW Career** **in Manufacturing Today!**

### **Land Your Next Employee with NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board!**

If your company is currently hiring, and you're not already utilizing NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board, then what are you waiting for? Email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com) for more information. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the Manufacturing Jobs Board.

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