

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

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Training &
Events

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2023 PA
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Industry Report

National News



It's Time to Fully Implement Build America, Buy America

Megan Salrin, a legislative representative for the United Steelworkers, testified at a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing examining the Build America, Buy America Act. In her written testimony, Salrin encouraged officials to be transparent about potential waivers, including via use of the new [MadeinAmerica.gov](https://www.madeinamerica.gov) website, along with collaborating with federal agencies that work to encourage and support domestic manufacturers like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). She also warned that the Department of Transportation and others should avoid creating new loopholes and avoid shifting origin standards for manufactured products.

Read
Article

Download Your Copy of the MEP's 5 Steps to Building a Supply Chain Network Strategy Guide

Building a supply chain network strategy does not have to be complicated. Ultimately, whether you are looking at your supply chain, back office functions or fill rates, improving your business is about reducing dependencies and avoiding variation.

The *5 Steps to Building a Supply Chain Network Strategy* Guide from the MEP National Network will show you how closely your operation is linked to your supply chain. Click the button below to download this Guide to learn:

- A five-step process to building a better supply chain network strategy
- Why the dependency-variance framework is such a simple but powerful combination
- The importance of keeping people at the front of your strategic planning

Download Guide

State News

Free Supply Chain 101 Webinar Series Kicks off May 8; Available to All Pennsylvania Manufacturers

NEPIRC's Philadelphia-based sister center, [Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center \(DVIRC\)](#), is offering its four-session Supply Chain 101 training webinar series to all manufacturers in Pennsylvania at no cost through a grant provided by the federal government. This is an exceptional opportunity since DVIRC's standard pricing for this program is typically \$1,200 per company.

This course will take place on May 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and will provide participants with a high-level knowledge base of and the "must have" processes for successful execution of inventory and supply chain management. Participants will learn the components that come into play and understand how to link them to their company's strategic, operating and tactical plans. The course will incorporate examples of how real businesses have applied these processes. Participants will also learn methods of sales and capacity management, inventory planning and supplier scouting and screening techniques to meet customer expectations and financial obligations.

To learn more and register, click the orange block below. All participants must pre-register because space is limited!

Learn More & Register

Regional News

Made in NEPA: Hanover Township Manufacturer Wren Kitchens Aims for the Top

NEPIRC is pleased to partner with the Times Leader, Penn's Northeast and the PA CareerLink® Luzerne County on the *Made in NEPA: Manufacturing Success Stories* series, which is designed to showcase the robust and diverse manufacturing sector in northeastern Pennsylvania. This initiative aims to highlight the success stories, innovation and significant contributions of local manufacturers to the economy and community.

This year-long, monthly series kicked off on Sunday, March 3 with a front-page story in the Times Leader's Business section on [Wren Kitchens](#)! Click below to read the full article and watch a video showcasing Wren Kitchens and its operations in northeastern Pennsylvania.

[Read Article & Watch
Video](#)

Northeastern PA Ranks in the Top 10 Metros in the United States for Economic Development

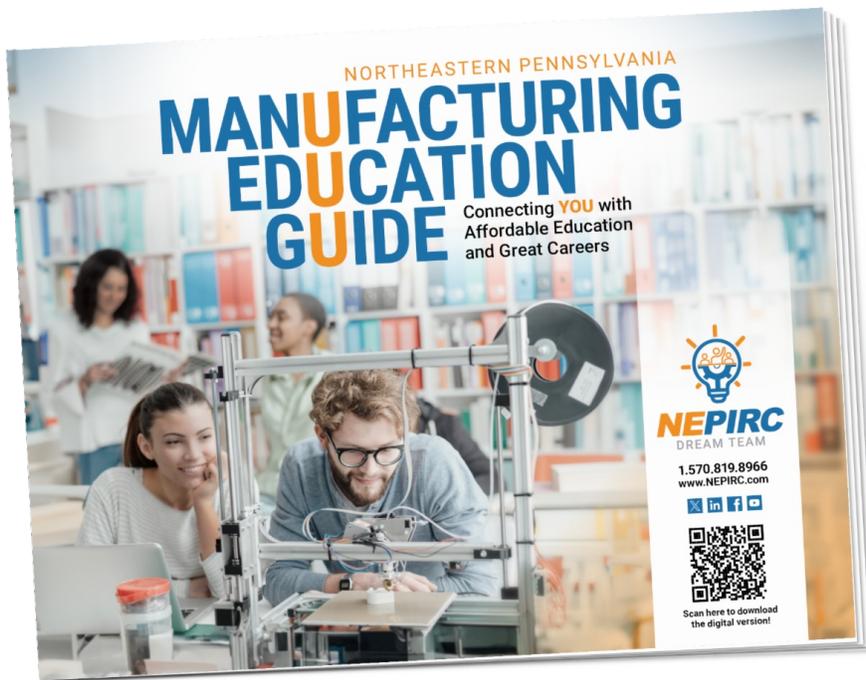
For the first time, Northeastern Pennsylvania was recognized as one of the best locations across the entire United States for economic development projects. The Governor's Cup Awards, produced annually by *Site Selection Magazine*, records the top places in the United States based on completed economic development projects. This year, the region ranked in the Top 10 Tier 2 Metros (population 200k – one million) for both the total number of projects and per capita.

"This impressive ranking demonstrates the exceptional work we do as economic developers in cooperation with our members and partners at the local, regional and state levels, said John L. Augustine III, president/CEO of Penn's Northeast.

In addition to northeastern PA's strategic location, reliable utilities and dedicated workforce coupled with an amazing education network, our region continues to stand out amongst many other areas of the country. The results show that northeastern Pennsylvania continues to be a top location in the United States for companies looking to grow their business.

[Read
Article](#)

The Latest from NEPIRC



NEPIRC Publishes *Manufacturing Education Guide*

In an effort to provide high school students with additional resources to make well-informed career choices, NEPIRC recently published its *Manufacturing Education Guide*.

The Manufacturing Education Guide provides several options for students, including those seeking post-secondary education opportunities, students undecided or not yet ready to pursue post-secondary education after high school but entertain the thought of it and for students looking to dive into the workforce immediately following high school. The Guide will connect students with great manufacturing career opportunities and promote affordable education at our local colleges and universities. For those institutions of higher education who have chosen to participate in this initiative, the Guide is a cost-effective way to get their advanced manufacturing technology and skill programs in front of students. The Guide also includes approximately 70 local manufacturers that offer tuition reimbursement or assistance for students who might want to pursue a career directly out of high school and entertain the thought of obtaining a college degree or program certificate at a later time.



Sponsorships Available for NEPIRC's 2024 Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo

Sponsorships are now available for NEPIRC's 2024 Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Best Practices Summit & Expo on October 4, at the Mohegan Pennsylvania Casino & Convention Center! MFG DAY celebrates the many contributions of the manufacturers in northeastern, northern and north central Pennsylvania. It's a day filled with networking, breakout sessions and panel discussions, learning about the great products made in our region and enjoying product and robotic demos. If you'd like to inquire about MFG DAY sponsorship, please email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com or [CLICK HERE](#).

Never attended MFG DAY before and unsure of

Continuous Improvement Specialist Awarded Patent for Fall Protection Device Webbing

NEPIRC would like to congratulate its very own Mark Morgis, Continuous Improvement Specialist, who was awarded Patent #11,872,419 on January 16! Mark's patent is for a type of webbing used in fall protection devices, such as a self-retracting lifeline. This webbing can withstand all leading edge drop tests by having a double cloth construction. The exterior of the webbing is constructed of woven, ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene yarns that can slide on an edge without severing. The interior of the fabric is made of high-tenacity fibers, such as aramid fibers, to give it strength. This webbing provides an alternative to wire rope as the tie-off material for working on elevated platforms. Great job, Mark! The entire NEPIRC team is so proud of you.



TriMech Training Programs Now Available Through NEPIRC

NEPIRC is pleased to announce it is now partnering with [TriMech](#), the leading provider of 3D CAD, analysis, rapid prototyping and design automation solutions, to offer TriMech's 100+ public and private formal training courses. TriMech also provides assistance with advanced manufacturing processes, encompassing component production through additive manufacturing and the sale and support of 3D printing machines of all sizes.

TriMech's training portfolio that is now available through NEPIRC covers SOLIDWORKS (CAD, Simulation, Electrical, PDM, MBD, Composer, Visualize, Draftsight, etc.) DriveWorks, Mastercam, Simulia, Abaqus, CATIA V5, ENOVIA, 3DEXperience Platform, Flexsim Software Products and StratasyS. [CLICK HERE](#) to view all programs or email Marla@NEPIRC.com for more information.

Donate to the United Way of Wyoming Valley's 9th Annual Children's Book Drive

Between now and April 18, NEPIRC is collecting new and gently used board books, picture books and chapter books for children in northeastern PA on behalf of the United Way of Wyoming Valley. If you'd like to participate, please bring your donated books to NEPIRC's main office located at 75 Young St., Hanover Twp., 18706 by April 18!



**United Way
of Wyoming Valley**

strategic mindset. **This event is free for manufacturers but is almost sold out, so be sure to reserve your spot today!**

make the April meeting but would like to join in May? Email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com to be added to the email invite list.

Register
Now

Sign Up
Now

Upcoming Training Programs

Six Sigma Yellow Belt, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, March 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

OSHA 10 for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, April 2, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, April 4, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Effort

Arc Flash / NFPA 70E Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, April 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

8-Week Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, April 9 to June 18, 8 a.m. to noon, at the TekRidge Center in Jessup

ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Wednesday, April 10 and April 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the TekRidge Center in Jessup

SolidWorks Essentials Training, taught by TriMech:

- Monday, April 15 to Thursday, April 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Six Sigma Green Belt Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, April 24 to May 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursday, May 9 to June 13, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Thursday, May 9, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

Lean Specialist Certificate, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Mondays, May 13 to June 17 (no class on May 27). 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Monday, May 13, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

8-Week Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Wednesdays from July 10 to August 28, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

Learn More & Register

Companies in Need of Suppliers

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

- **Plastic or Metal Roof Material Fasteners** – Manufacturer in New

Hampshire seeking a source for plastic roof insulation and membrane fastener plates to fasten down Polyiso insulation and Thermoplastic Polyofin (TPO) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) roof membranes. Fasteners can be injection molded plastic or made of steel. Current product being used is SG-90 Steel w/ a PVC coating. Item is 7.9 cm round with hole in center for fastener nail. Drawings, specifications and photos of product currently being used are available. Order quantity is ~2,000/yr.

- **Aluminum Fabrication Contract** – Indiana company searching for a metal fabricator to make aluminum blade boxes for the aerospace and defense industries – primarily used in helicopters and drones. Laser-cut aluminum ranging from 12-40 feet in length with thickness from 0.090-0.124 inches. After laser cutting to exact dimensions, the aluminum will be formed through a brake press process. Most products will be for 20-24 foot pieces from 5052 Aluminum. Technical specifications available upon request. Order will be for ~50 blade boxes/yr.
- **Steel or Powdered Metal Spindle Shafts** – PA-based company in need of supplier for spindle shafts used to rotate drums. Several drawings from overseas provider are available, as are all technical specifications. Total length is 183.5 mm and diameter at largest point is 39.5 mm. Heat treated hardness must meet HrC 40-50 levels. Order quantity will be 800,000 units/yr to York, PA area.
- **Grade 420 Stainless Steel Coils** – Iowa cutlery manufacturer seeking supplier of 420 Stainless Steel coils of 0.035 x .625 and 0.030 x .5625 dimensions. Heat treated to HrC 50-52 with a 2B (mostly polished and brushed) finish. Coil must be free of pits and scratches. Width tolerance +/- .005 and thickness tolerance +/- .0025. These coils will eventually be stamped, ground, polished and sharpened into high quality cutlery. Estimated order quantity will approach 30,000 lbs/yr.



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