

# NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

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## National News



### **NIST MEP Publishes New White Paper, *Advancing U.S. Manufacturing*; Now Available for Download**

NIST MEP has produced a new white paper, *Advancing U.S. Manufacturing*, as a resource for manufacturers and their respective MEP Centers. This document describes the challenges manufacturers face, and the ways MEP Centers are helping to narrow the workforce gap, mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities and leverage technology and innovation. Download your copy by clicking on the button below!

[Download Advancing U.S. Manufacturing Report](#)

## State News

**Calling all Manufacturers to Take the Clean Energy Manufacturing**

## Economy Assessment

NEPIRC encourages all manufacturers to participate in [Catalyst Connection's](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh sister center, Clean Energy Manufacturing Economy Assessment, which is part of a statewide effort by the PA IRC Network to encourage manufacturers to enter the clean energy supply chain and benefit from the expected growth in solar, wind, geothermal, Marcellus Shale, nuclear and other alternative energy sectors. Click the button below to take the assessment, and you can also [visit this website](#), which has more information on the overall initiative.

[Take Assessment](#)

## Regional News

### Ward Manufacturing Celebrates 100 Years of Manufacturing Excellence

NEPIRC would like to congratulate Ward Manufacturing (Ward) on its 100th year in business! Ward is a leading manufacturer of piping components used in thousands of installations worldwide. While rarely seen by the typical resident or visitor, their products provide water, gas, and other necessities to upscale homes, commercial developments, institutional buildings, public utilities and even world-recognized landmarks and American icons like New York City's Freedom Tower.

Founded in Blossburg, PA, in 1924, the company initially produced a small line of cast iron steam and drainage fittings, along with plugs and bushings. The history of Ward is exciting and interesting, and you can read more about it in this article published by *Mountain Home Magazine*. You'll learn how Ward established itself as a national fixture in the global pipe fittings industry and rekindled the coal town of Blossburg.

[History of Ward  
Manufacturing](#)

## The Latest from NEPIRC



## Ryan Evans from SEKISUI KYDEX Joins NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team

Last month, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team warmly welcomed a new Ambassador, Ryan Evans, Internal Communications Manager at SEKISUI KYDEX located in Bloomsburg. Jenelle Osborne, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Talent Stream Coordinator, presented Ryan with a Dream Team plaque to thank him for his participation. Jenelle was joined at the presentation by Marla Hager, NEPIRC's Director of Client Development, and Courtney Deignan, NEPIRC's Business Advisor for Columbia and Luzerne counties. Ryan looks forward to talking with students about his manufacturing career journey.

Pictured above from left to right: Courtney Deignan; Bernie Allen, VP of Marketing, SEKISUI KYDEX; Jenelle Osborne; Ryan Evans; Marla Hager; Orion Behrer, Director of People & Culture, SEKISUI KYDEX; Lucas Allen, Manufacturing Manager, SEKISUI KYDEX; and Ryan Karns, North Campus Plant Manager; SEKISUI KYDEX.



## Join the 65 Companies (& Counting) Who Have Already Committed to Sponsor NEPIRC's 2024 Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo!

Sixty-five companies have already signed up to sponsor 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 jump on the bandwagon and be a MFG DAY sponsor, please email

Never attended MFG DAY and are unsure of what to expect? Check out the photo gallery from NEPIRC's 2023 event by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## NEPIRC Team Members Meet Manufacturing Millennial at Lackawanna College Automation Event

Eric Joseph Esoda, NEPIRC President & CEO; Jenelle Osborne, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Talent Stream Coordinator; Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement; and Courtney Deignan, NEPIRC's Business Advisor for Columbia and Luzerne counties, recently attended the Automation & Education Meets Industry Event at Lackawanna College. Hosted by Lackawanna College and PSA Robotics, the event highlighted how manufacturing automation and the supporting education infrastructure is being developed and the impact it's having on the northeastern PA manufacturing community. Keynote speaker for the event was Jake Hall, aka [The Manufacturing Millennial](#). Jake spoke about generational differences between Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials and Gen Zers when it comes to workforce, along with how technology and automation can motivate Millennials and Gen Zers to consider jobs in manufacturing.



NEPIRC would like to thank Mike McHale of PSA and the rest of his team, along with Lackawanna College, for putting on a great event.



## TriMech Training Programs Now Available Through NEPIRC

NEPIRC 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](mailto:Marla@NEPIRC.com) for more information.

## Leadership Northeast Invites NEPIRC to Present to its Impact Class of 2024

Leadership Northeast (LNE), a community leadership development organization located in Wilkes-Barre, invited NEPIRC to present to its Impact Class of 2024 during the group's March program at Pride Mobility Products in Duryea. LNE's Impact Class is comprised of teachers from various high schools throughout Luzerne County. For NEPIRC's portion of the agenda, Eric Joseph Esoda, NEPIRC President & CEO, talked to the group about how familiarity matters when it comes to encouraging students to consider careers in manufacturing, and Jenelle Osborne, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Talent Stream Coordinator, highlighted NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team program. NEPIRC thanks LNE for this great opportunity!



## Manufacturer of the Month: Trivium Packaging

This month, NEPIRC is featuring [Trivium Packaging](#) as its Manufacturer of the Month for April! With an impressive presence in 19 countries and 61 locations worldwide, including one in Bloomsburg, PA, Trivium is the epitome of top-notch food-safe production. Trivium produces a wide variety of metal packaging across different industries. Its product categories include threaded bottles, aerosols, beverage containers, food cans, and other packaging created from steel, tinplate and aluminum. From Bumble Bee Tuna to 9Lives

Cat Food, Manwich and more, Trivium's cans are a staple in pantries and stores worldwide. The photo above captures just a few of the products Trivium makes.

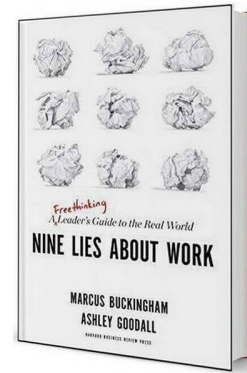
If you'd like your business and products to be a featured Manufacturer of the Month, please email [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com) for more information.



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 course will take place virtually on **May 8, 15, 22 & 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. The course will incorporate examples of how real businesses have applied these processes.

All participants must pre-register; space is limited!

[Learn More & Register](#)



Calling all manufacturers and non-manufacturers to join NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club! NEPIRC's Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 23 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams to discuss *Nine Lies About Work* by Marcus Buckingham and Ashley Goodall

To learn more about NEPIRC's Book Club and to sign up, click below. Not able to make the May meeting but would like to join in June? Email [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com) to be added to the email invite list.

[Sign Up Now](#)

## Upcoming Training Programs

### 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

## Companies in Need of Suppliers

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

- **Epoxy Bottle-Cap Adapter** – Company in Nebraska seeking ~12 units of a prototype epoxy adapter that will fit over the grooves of a bottle cap, like a rigid sleeve, so the cap can be closed with the appropriate amount of torque. The adapter will be fitted with a socket on the side opposed the cap that can be attached to a torque wrench or similar tool. With the adapter over the cap, bottles can consistently be twisted closed with the set level of torque. Production can be through 3D printing to epoxy or by molding epoxy. There are technical drawings available but no heat or other specifications. Adapter dimensions are 2" wide. Socket on top is .25" x .375". Supplier must follow current cGMP regulations. Once prototype is proven, order will be placed for thousands of units.
- **Wheelchair Brake** – Idaho company seeking manufacturer of aluminum machined/anodized components that make up a brake mechanism to replace OEM brakes on common wheelchairs. Parts include a Mount Rod made of machined aluminum and a Brake Mount Plate of black anodized machined aluminum. Drawings available. Material is 6061 Aluminum. Seeking price point in the neighborhood of \$3/piece at order quantities ranging from 200 to 2,000 sets of two.



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