

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

January 2025 | Volume 51

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National News



How Manufacturers Can Take Advantage of Reshoring and Regionalization Trends

Many original equipment manufacturers and large manufacturers are adopting risk mitigation strategies that prioritize reshoring and building regional supply networks. It's a great time for small manufacturers to explore how they can find new business opportunities. It also means supply chain strategy has never been more important for achieving business goals. Learn more about this changing environment, and how to take advantage of it, in this article by Cynthia Farrer of Purdue MEP (Indiana MEP).

[Read
Article](#)

Ethical Hacking Can Prepare Small Manufacturers for Potential Cyber Threats

Ethical hacking, also known as penetration testing, gives manufacturers the opportunity to identify and address weak spots before they become bigger problems. In this article by Joe Anderson, Cybersecurity Expert with TechSolve (part of Ohio MEP), find out why and how to use penetration testing to protect against cyber vulnerabilities.

[Learn More](#)

State News

New Video from Governor Shapiro Highlights How Pennsylvania is Competing Again, Making Historic Investments to Spur Economic Growth and Create Jobs Across the Commonwealth

Throughout 2024, Governor Josh Shapiro worked to make Pennsylvania more economically competitive, attracting more businesses and creating good-paying jobs. The Governor has delivered on that by securing more than \$3 billion in private sector investments to drive growth in key industries like agriculture, energy, life sciences, manufacturing and technology. Watch this video to learn more about these achievements.

[Watch
Now](#)

Creating Jobs in Lycoming County: Shapiro Administration Investing \$4.6 Million to Help PMF Industries Expand into the Clean Hydrogen Market & Grow Pennsylvania's Clean Energy Industry

On December 20, Governor Josh Shapiro announced the Commonwealth is investing \$4.6 million into [PMF Industries](#) to help the 63-year-old Pennsylvania company enter the clean hydrogen market, growing Pennsylvania's clean energy industry. The Commonwealth funding will support a more than \$7 million expansion of the Lycoming County-based manufacturing company that will create at least 20 new, full-time jobs and retain 78 existing jobs. PMF Industries will construct a 16,000-square-foot addition to its existing manufacturing operations in Williamsport that will house a new hot spinning machine and aluminum heat treating and tempering furnace. The expansion will allow the company to enter the clean hydrogen market — producing metallic liners to store hydrogen and allow it to be transported by trucks, planes and boats.

If you are interested in adopting clean energy practices at your manufacturing facility, NEPIRC can help! Thanks to funding provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant program, NEPIRC is able to assist manufacturers with this endeavor.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and start the process. You can also email Info@NEPIRC.com.

[Read More](#)

Regional News

Let Your Voice Be Heard! NEPA Alliance Needs Input From All Who Call Northeastern PA Home

[NEPA Alliance](#) is designated by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Economic Development Administration, as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the seven-county region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. As the EDD, NEPA Alliance is required by federal law to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region every five years. In 2025, NEPA Alliance will begin this process, and they want to hear from you!

Please take five minutes to complete the Northeastern Pennsylvania Economic Development Survey. Click the button below to give an honest assessment of the biggest strengths and weaknesses of our region. Your input directly influences the strategies that will drive economic growth, create opportunities, and improve the quality of life for all who call our region home. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the CEDS.

Take Survey

Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania to Host JA Inspire: A Career Exploration Experience in April

Meet the talent of tomorrow, TODAY! That's the motto of Junior Achievement (JA) of Northeastern Pennsylvania's [2025 Inspire Career Exploration Experience](#) taking place April 1 and 2 at Mohegan Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. This event engages 2,500 students from more than 25 school districts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania in 80+ hands-on, interactive exhibits with local companies in 10 career clusters. The result? Students are exposed to career opportunities, create connections and are inspired toward a pathway for future success.

This year, the team at JA is working hard to expand the Manufacturing Career Cluster and is calling on the many great manufacturing companies in our region to step up and participate as exhibitors. Click the orange box below to learn more about Inspire 2025 and the exhibition opportunities. We hope you'll help inspire today's students to become the next generation of manufacturing workers!

Learn More

WVIA's NEPA @ Work Series Provides a Look Into Some of Northeastern PA's Premier Manufacturing Companies

[NEPA @ Work](#) is a captivating digital-first series that takes viewers on an exclusive behind-the-scenes journey into the heart of global manufacturing in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. An exciting partnership between [WVIA](#) and [DiscoverNEPA](#), each 5-minute episode and blog post will delve into the intricate processes, innovative technologies and the dedicated individuals driving success in our vibrant region.

Featured manufacturing companies include:

- Yuengling

- Gertrude Hawk
- Gentex Corporation
- Noble Biomaterials
- Olympia Chimney & Venting
- USHydrations
- EAM-Mosca
- PowerRail
- Production Systems Automation (PSA)
- SCHOTT

We encourage you to watch WVIA's NEPA @ Work series to learn more about each of these innovative manufacturers and the state-of-the-art products they make. You'll be amazed at what's being made in our region and the technologically advanced processes each facility employs!

Watch
Now!

The Latest from NEPIRC



Two NEPIRC Staff Members Serve as Judges for SkillsUSA District 1 Competition at Johnson College

On December 10, Jenelle Osborne, NEPIRC's Talent Stream Coordinator, and Chelsey Coslett-Traver, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, served as judges for the [SkillsUSA District 1 Competition](#) at [Johnson College](#). SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization serving more than 395,000 high school, college, and

professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical, health and skilled service occupations.

Jenelle, Chelsey and Alana Roberts, Manager of Community Relations at PPL Electric Utilities, all served as judges for the Action Skills category. It was a fun morning watching these talented students showcase their awesome capabilities.

Pictured above from left to right: Alana Roberts, Jenelle Osborne, Chelsey Coslett-Traver and Tim Frank, Associate Director of Community Engagement at Johnson College.

Several NEPIRC Team Members Celebrate Work Anniversaries in December and January

In December, two NEPIRC staff members celebrated work anniversaries, and two others will mark such achievements in January.

- **Marla Hager**, Director of Client Development, celebrated 8 years on December 5.
- **Jenelle Osborne**, Talent Stream Coordinator, celebrated 2 years on December 29.
- **Ray Kryeski**, Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering Specialist, celebrated 9 years on January 4.
- **Ashley Tice**, Business Advisor for the Northern Tier, will celebrate 1 year on January 22.

Marla, Jenelle, Ray and Ashley are each very talented and excel in their respective roles. We are so glad to have them on our team. Congratulations to all of you!



Green Technology and Clean Energy Assistance for Small and Mid-Sized Manufacturers

If you own or manage a manufacturing facility and wish to improve energy efficiency, reduce the plant's carbon



footprint or shift or expand your clean energy product lines, NEPIRC can help! Benefits of making these changes can include:

- Business growth
- Cost savings
- Increased efficiency
- Energy independence
- And more!

Thanks to funding provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant program, NEPIRC is ready to assist manufacturers with this endeavor.

[Watch this short commercial](#) to learn more and then [CLICK HERE](#) to get started!

Webinar: How to Make Your Organization Resilient to Complex and "Wicked" Problems

[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, is hosting a monthly Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series. The series kicked off in December and will run through February. The webinars do not build upon each other, so if you miss one, you can still sign up for the others.

The second webinar will take place on January 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Entitled, *How to Make Your Organization Resilient to Complex and "Wicked" Problems*, it will provide emerging leaders with practical tools and strategies to address the most challenging and complex problems their organizations face. Participants will learn how to approach these "wicked problems" by embracing flexibility, engaging with various stakeholders and developing strategies that adapt to changing circumstances.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and register!



Manufacturer of the Month



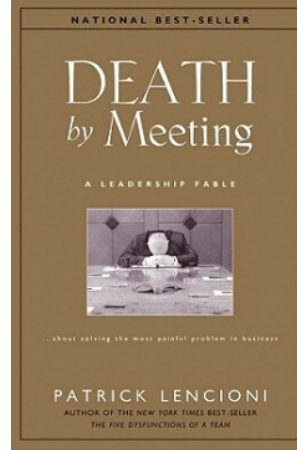
Manufacturer of the Month: Gertrude Hawk Chocolates

NEPIRC is proud to announce [Gertrude Hawk Chocolates](#) as Manufacturer of the Month for January! Headquartered in Dunmore, PA, the company originated in 1936 when Gertrude (Jones) Hawk started making chocolate in her kitchen on Mark Avenue in the Poconos. Soon after, Gertrude and her son Elmer built their first large-scale manufacturing facility, as well as a retail store. In the early 1980s, the company invested in a one-shot shell molder, a new process for forming molded chocolates. Soon after this investment was made, the well-known Smidgen was born!

Peanut Butter Smidgens quickly became the company's #1 selling chocolate and still remain so today. Presently, Gertrude Hawk Chocolates utilizes over 150,000 sq. ft. of modern production and distribution space to supply its customers with the products they have grown to love. Gertrude Hawk was also recently featured as part of WVIA's NEPA @ Work digital short series. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video and read the blog authored by DiscoverNEPA.

Please consider Gertrude Hawk Chocolates when purchasing your Valentine's Day gifts and treats this upcoming season!

If you'd like to be featured as a Manufacturer of the Month, please email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information.



Use NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board to Find Your New Employees

Manufacturers are welcome and encouraged to join NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board to aid in your employee recruitment efforts. At no cost to you, your logo, address and a link to your Careers page can appear on our Jobs Board.

NEPIRC's Jobs Board was created specifically with manufacturers in mind and is a central database for those looking to work in manufacturing.

[Explore NEPIRC's Jobs Board](#)

Find the Cure for the Most Painful Yet Underestimated Problem of Modern Business: Bad Meetings!

This month, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is reading a leadership classic, [Death by Meeting](#) by Patrick Lencioni. Join us if you want the blueprint to eliminate waste and frustration amongst your team and create an environment of engagement and passion.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 23 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club!

[Join the Club!](#)

Upcoming Training Programs

Lean vs. Six Sigma Webinar, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Tuesday, January 14, 10 to 11 a.m., via MS Teams

Lean Specialist Certificate, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Mondays, January 27 to February 24, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Wednesday, January 29, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The TekRidge Center, Jessup

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

- Thursdays, January 30 to March 20, 8:30 to 12:30 p.m., NEPIRC Towanda

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: Workplace Safety, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, February 4, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The Stourbridge Project, Honesdale

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, February 4, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The TekRidge Center, Jessup

Applied Project Management, taught by Leo Gillroy:

- Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 & March 12, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Six Sigma Green Belt Training, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Thursdays, February 6 to March 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., via MS Teams

Intro to AS9100:2016, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Thursday, February 6, 8 to 11 a.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Reasonable Suspicion Training for Night Shift Employees, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Thursday, February 6, 9 to 11:30 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: Workplace Safety, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, February 11, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., BHG Business Campus, East Stroudsburg

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: Workplace Safety, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday, February 17, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

OSHA 30 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesdays, March 4 to March 25, 8 a.m. to 4: p.m., at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

OSHA 10 Training Course for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesdays, March 5, 12 and 19, 8 a.m. to noon, virtually via MS Teams

Applied 3D Scanning & Printing Technologies, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Friday, March 14, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Monday, March 17, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Effort

SafeLandUSA Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday. March 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

ISO9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Wednesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

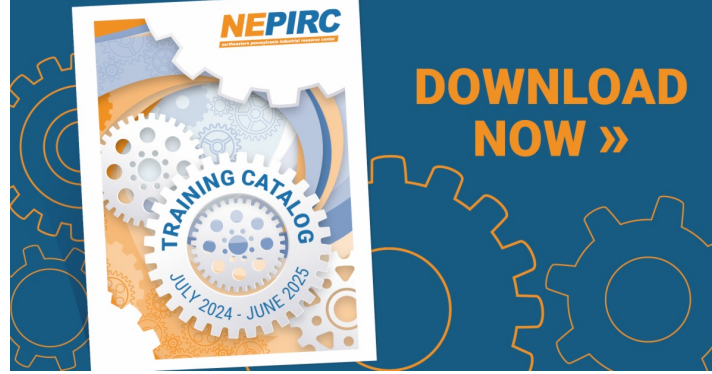
[Learn More & Register](#)

Browse NEPIRC's 2025 Training Catalog

Don't see a training program that interests you in the above list? Browse NEPIRC's Training & Events Catalog to find additional trainings not yet listed.

- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2025 Training Catalog
- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2025 Training Calendar overview

Questions about a NEPIRC training program? Email Info@NEPIRC.com.



Browse Training
Catalog

Companies in Need of Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region. To learn more, email Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Fans for fan coils** - South Carolina manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of fans for fan coils, including the fan motor, fan rotor and fan casing. These items are intended to be used for residential and commercial appliances. This is an annual request of roughly 2500 units per year at \$90 a unit.
- **Coils for fans** - South Carolina manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of coils for fans. These are water to air heat exchangers, made of copper tubes and aluminum fins. The heat exchangers consist of soldered copper pipes with hydraulic connections, onto which aluminum fins are pressed. These items are intended to be used in fan coils for residential and commercial appliances. This is an annual request of roughly 1500 units per year in 16 different sizes and versions.



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