

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

March 2025 | Volume 53

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National News



Manufacturing in America

The [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#)'s [Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\)](#) created a new infographic highlighting manufacturing in America. This infographic shows how manufacturing contributes to our nation's economy, employment and innovation, and why the U.S. remains a manufacturing powerhouse. This graphic can help raise awareness of the significant impacts of American manufacturing, including adding trillions of dollars to the economy, employing millions of people, performing more than half of all business research and development in the U.S. and offering higher average annual wages than other

industries.

NEPIRC encourages readers to share this infographic to help educate others on the greatness of America's manufacturing sector!

[Download
Infographic](#)

New Guide from NIST MEP: How U.S. Manufacturers Can Take Advantage of Reshoring

A new guide from NIST MEP explains how small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) can navigate the reshoring process, including:

- Making the decision on whether to reshore
- Leveraging supplier scouting to rebuild domestic supply chains
- Developing a roadmap to fill supply chain gaps
- Investing in technology to make reshoring more feasible and cost-efficient

[Download Guide](#)

State News

Shapiro Administration Invests Nearly \$200,000 to Increase Number of Advanced Welders, Boost Manufacturing Industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania

In late February, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Director of Workforce Development Initiatives Gwen Ross announced the Shapiro Administration's new \$199,840 investment to provide advanced skills training for students in Pittsburgh's North Hills School District Welding Program through the Manufacturing PA Training-to-Career (MTTC) grant program.

The North Hills Welding Program will use this MTTC grant to upgrade equipment and support instructional staff that provide students with the skills required for entry-level welding positions and introduce them to career opportunities in manufacturing through workshops, facility tours and mentorship programs. The program partners with local manufacturers to identify workforce skill gaps and tailors training to meet these needs and connects program graduates with manufacturing employers to ensure their seamless transition into the workforce.

The MTTC grant program works collaboratively with local manufacturers to identify and teach missing essential skills for entry level applicants seeking manufacturing employment, engage youth or those with barriers to career opportunities in manufacturing and/or advance capacity for local or regional manufacturers.

[Read
Article](#)

PA Additive Manufacturing, Neighborhood 91 Get a Boost

A new Pennsylvania initiative aimed at boosting advanced manufacturing could

have a profound effect on Pittsburgh International Airport's advanced manufacturing campus Neighborhood 91.

The new Max Manufacturing Initiative Fund will provide grants and loans for specialized equipment, infrastructure and facilities dedicated to advanced manufacturing. The initiative is designed to foster public-private partnerships between state-related universities and private engineering companies.

"Pennsylvania boasts one of the most productive workforces in the world, and with the Max Manufacturing program, we're positioned to attract even more innovative experts to our state and especially to our region," said State Sen. Devlin Robinson. "This new law not only bolsters cooperation between state universities and engineering firms, but it also fosters business partnerships, and drives innovation and production of high-value, high-tech products."

[Read More](#)

Regional News

Spanish Food Packaging Company Salaet Chooses Wayne County PA for First U.S. Operations

Salaet, a leading Spanish company specializing in sustainable food packaging, has officially selected Wayne County as the location for its U.S. headquarters. The company has acquired a lot in the Sterling Business and Technology Park, marking a significant step in its expansion into the American market.

[Read Article](#)

SIMONA AMERICA Group Announces \$23 Million Facility Expansion in Archbald

SIMONA AMERICA Group, a leading supplier of thermoplastic semi-finished parts, has announced a significant expansion of its Archbald facility. This \$23 million investment reflects the company's commitment to driving innovation, supporting local economic growth and enhancing its manufacturing capabilities.

[Read More](#)

New Section! Upcoming Partner Events

Greater Scranton Chamber to Host Annual Workforce Summit

If your company is hiring, you won't want to miss the opportunity to exhibit at [The Greater Scranton Chamber of](#)

[Commerce's](#) annual Workforce Summit! This event takes place Thursday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel located at 700 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton.

This event brings together more than 50 employers, high school seniors, college students, and job seekers for a day of networking, professional development and career exploration.

As a participating business, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Connect with job seekers and future talent
- Showcase your company's career opportunities
- Engage in panel discussions and professional development sessions

Secure your spot today! Click the orange button below for more details, sponsorship opportunities or to reserve an exhibitor table.

[Learn More](#)



**Scranton Area
Community
Foundation
Offering Virtual
Sessions for
NEPA Thrives
Workforce
Barriers Summit Series**



Originally scheduled as in-person events, the NEPA Thrives Workforce Barriers Summit has transitioned to an interactive virtual series format via Zoom, ensuring accessibility while maintaining the same valuable content. Hosted by the [Scranton Area Community Foundation](#) through its NEPA Thrives initiative, the Summit series will bring together employers, human resources professionals, executives and managers to tackle workforce recruitment and retention challenges across Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This virtual series will include expert-led discussions and solution-driven collaborations, leading up to an in-person wrap-up collaborative on May 1. Click the orange button below to learn more and view the variety of one-hour sessions offered throughout March and April.

Questions? Contact Koren Clark, Community Impact Manager, at koren@safdn.org.

[Learn More](#)

New Section! Available Real Estate for Manufacturers

NEPIRC is partnering with [Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services](#) to help manufacturers find potential new locations via our monthly e-newsletter! Each month, we will feature some of Mericle Commercial Real Estate's properties that would be perfect for the manufacturing industry. Click on the link next to each photo for more information, including photos, specs and drawings. [Click here](#) to email Jim Cummings, VP of Marketing for Mericle, should you wish to connect about one of the featured properties.



460 Research Drive, CenterPoint East, Pittston Township

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.



575 Research Drive, CenterPoint East, Pittston Township

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.

The Latest from NEPIRC



Dream Team Ambassador Shares His Story with CAN DO's Student Action Committee

NEPIRC Dream Team Ambassador, Randy Paulino, Human Resources Management Trainee at [Insteel Wire Products](#), recently presented to the [Greater Hazleton CAN DO's Student Action Committee](#). The Student Action Committee consists of juniors and seniors from high schools throughout Greater Hazleton who are appointed as student members of the CAN DO Board of Directors.

During his presentation, Randy highlighted the cool products made by Insteel, along with sharing his manufacturing career journey. Randy was also kind enough to provide interviewing tips and resume resources.

Thank you, Randy, for being such an awesome Dream Team Ambassador and sharing your fascinating insight with CAN DO's Student Action Committee!

Sponsor & Exhibit at Manufacturing Day 2025!

Sponsorships are now available for NEPIRC's annual Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Best Practices Summit & Expo on Friday, October 3, at the Mohegan Pennsylvania Casino & Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre! Sponsorship packages are available to meet all price points, and each package includes a 10x10 exhibitor space and much more.

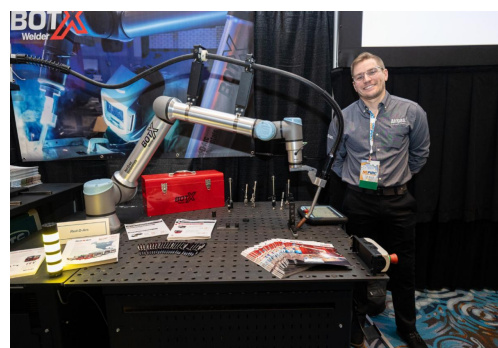
If you're interested in sponsoring, don't wait! Exhibitor space sold out last year, so lock in your sponsorship today.

[Click here](#) for more information and to view sponsorship packages.

Why attend MFG DAY? Attendees connect with hundreds of manufacturers and industry professionals for a day of learning, collaboration and celebration. NEPIRC's annual MFG DAY Best Practices Summit & Expo aims to empower manufacturers, change public perception about the industry, highlight its economic impact and introduce more people to the advanced technology being used throughout the sector.

Who Should Attend MFG DAY? Manufacturing executives and decision makers; non-manufacturers who provide a service or product that benefits the manufacturing industry; economic development organizations; high school and college students; colleges/universities; manufacturing advocates and enthusiasts; government officials; technology, robotics and AI companies; champions of Northeastern Pennsylvania; and anyone who would like to learn more about the manufacturing industry or is considering a manufacturing career.

What Does MFG DAY Entail? MFG DAY offers attendees the opportunity to participate in



educational breakout sessions; hear from nationally acclaimed speakers; meet and network with manufacturing and non-manufacturing decision makers, buyers and business owners; interact with PA-made products; see the great technological advancements in the industry; celebrate the many achievements of our manufacturing sector; and more.



Kira Loomis Promoted from Part-Time Team Member to Full-Time

NEPIRC is pleased to announce that Kira Loomis, part-time Marketing & Events Assistant, has been promoted to the full-time role of Marketing & Community Outreach Coordinator!

Kira will continue to be responsible for supporting the planning and execution efforts for NEPIRC's events and assisting with social media, public relations, graphic design, branding and overall marketing strategy. In addition to these responsibilities, Kira will now conduct outreach to book in-school presentations featuring NEPIRC's Manufacturing Dream Team Ambassadors, arrange Dream Team involvement in career fairs and coordinate other Dream Team Ambassador events.

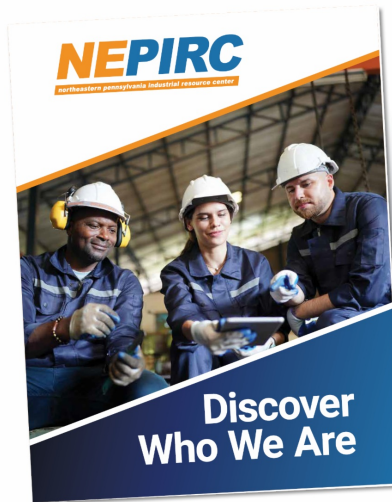
Kira holds a Bachelor of Science in media and journalism, with an emphasis in public relations, from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. During her studies, she interned with Bloomsburg University's Marketing and Communications office, where she demonstrated dedication and the ability to drive success in media and marketing for the College. She is passionate about media and brings a creative touch to each project she undertakes.

Congratulations, Kira!

Check Out NEPIRC's New Discover Who We Are Brochure

NEPIRC has updated its Discover Who We Are brochure! The team is excited to begin using this resource to help introduce more prospective clients to all NEPIRC can do for them.

[Click here](#) to check out NEPIRC's new brochure.



Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series Back by Popular Demand

[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, is hosting another Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series. Back by popular demand, this series is the same as the one offered this past December through February, so if you wanted to participate in any of those webinars, here's your chance!

The first webinar, entitled, "How to Become a Change Agent Within Your Organization so You Can Drive Sustainability Initiatives," will take place on Friday, March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This webinar will cover how attendees can become change agents within their organizations to drive sustainability initiatives. It will help prepare emerging leaders to manage strategic change both within their organizations and in response to disruptions. Participants will engage in a simulated scenario, taking on roles like CEO or Director of Product Innovation, to navigate challenges related to both internal and external change. The exercise emphasizes diagnosing challenges, planning adaptive actions and leading successful change efforts that align with evolving sustainability goals.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register!



Manufacturer of the Month: Berry Global

This month's Manufacturer of the Month is Berry Global! Located in Pittston, PA, Berry Global is a 24/7 injection molding company that manufactures industrial containers and lids, along with food-grade packaging. Since its inception in 1967, Berry Global has been creating packaging and protective solutions that meet performance requirements, environmental impact targets and aesthetic needs. Berry Global's annual production is approximately 35 million pounds of material, prioritizing the use of post-consumer regrind in its industrial applications. Berry Global is committed to partnering with companies to deliver expert knowledge and flawless execution as an industry leader in manufacturing, product development and tooling services.

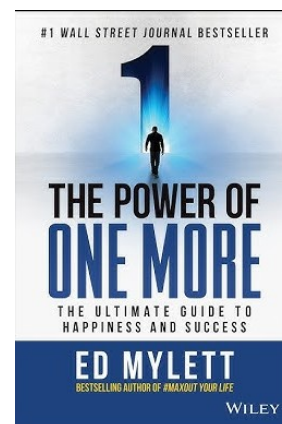
Thank you to Berry Global for making an impact on our community every day!

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



Are You in Need of a Domestic Supplier? Complete NEPIRC's Supplier Scouting Form to Begin the Process

NEPIRC is here to help manufacturers



Do You Want to Possess the

source domestic suppliers. If you're a manufacturer facing high demand and need a second supplier or are experiencing cost or shipping issues, then taking advantage of NEPIRC's supplier scouting assistance is a good place to begin.

To initiate the process, click the orange button below and complete NEPIRC's supplier scouting form. Once submitted, a NEPIRC representative will be in touch.

Questions? Email Randy Yash, NEPIRC's Director of IT, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

Power of One More?

This month, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is reading [*The Power of One More*](#) by Ed Mylett. Readers will learn why they're closer to their dreams and goals than they think and why using the Power of One More strategies will help them cross the finish line in whatever race they're running. Additionally, author Ed Mylett helps readers understand the psychology and science of how to use the Power of One More in every part of their life to help solve problems and achieve levels of success never thought possible

Join us if you'd like to learn how to harness the power of one more in your life and career! NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 27 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club.

[Complete Form](#)

[Join the Club!](#)

Upcoming Training Programs; Register Today!

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

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

- Tuesdays, April 1 to April 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Towanda and virtually via MS Teams

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

- Wednesdays, April 2 to May 21, 8 a.m. to noon, at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

Lean Tool Training: 6S System, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Friday, April 11, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Effort

High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesdays, April 15 to June 10, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Tuesdays, April 29 to May 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp. and 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. To learn more, email Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Multi-Brush Cosmetic Kit** - Manufacturer in Arizona is looking for a second supplier with injection molding capability to produce a multi-brush cosmetic kit. Materials required are aluminum for handles and tube bristles made from either Nylon, Taklon or Natrafdil. Manufacturer is looking for sizable quantities on a monthly basis.
- **Cast Iron Pillars** - Manufacturer in Rhode Island is looking for a foundry to pour initial casting, including cleaning, sandblasting and painting of grey cast iron pillars. The largest pillar would be 2405mm (7.9ft) in height, 773mm (2.5 ft) in thickness and roughly 1500lbs. Drawings and models to be provided after NDA. Manufacturer is looking for 6-12 cast iron pillars annually.



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