

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

May 2024 | Volume 43

[NEPIRC.com](#)

[Training & Events](#)

[Manufacturing Jobs Board](#)

[Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team](#)

[Manufacturing Education Guide](#)

National News



MEP
National NetworkTM

The Go-To Experts for Advancing U.S. Manufacturing

New Study Finds MEP Generates Substantial 17.2:1 ROI Among Other Positive Findings

NIST MEP commissioned a new study by Summit Consulting and the Upjohn Institute. The study finds the MEP program generates a substantial economic and financial return of 17.2:1 for the \$175 million invested in fiscal year 2023 by the federal government. The study finds that 309,000 more Americans were employed because of MEP Center projects. The study also examined areas of economic impact not previously reported by the MEP program, finding that personal income is \$22.5 billion higher and gross domestic product is \$34.1 billion larger.

[Read Report](#)

State News

Governor Shapiro and Secretary Siger Visit Honesdale to Highlight Proposed \$25 Million Investment to Create Economic Opportunity for PA Main Streets and Small Businesses

Earlier this year, Governor Josh Shapiro and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Rick Siger joined local leaders to highlight the Governor's proposed investments in Pennsylvania Main Streets, small

businesses and local communities. As part of the [2024-25 budget proposal](#) that focuses on creating economic opportunity for all in communities across Pennsylvania, Governor Shapiro and Secretary Siger visited small businesses on Honesdale's Main Street business district. Over the last five years, the Commonwealth has invested \$630,000 in Honesdale to improve main street signage, storefronts and infrastructure. During this visit to Honesdale Governor Shapiro announced a new \$100,000 Keystone Partnership grant to not only continue the work on storefront improvements but also to fund loans for local business owners to afford new equipment, renovation projects and business marketing. Governor Shapiro's proposed Main Street Matters program will be administered through DCED and will build on the existing successes of the current Keystone Communities Program in supporting downtowns, main streets and surrounding neighborhoods. It will provide for a refresh of the current structure to address a wide variety of needs throughout communities and invest in their revitalization and future prosperity.

[Read More](#)

Regional News

Crystal Clear and Tough as Nails: Cardinal Glass Industries Featured in Manufacturing Spotlight Series

Cardinal Glass Industries was recently featured in the *Times Leader* as part of the paper's monthly Made in NEPA: Manufacturing Success Stories spotlight series. Cardinal Glass has two plants in northeast Pennsylvania. There's the Cardinal Insulated Glass (IG) Company in the Crestwood Industrial Park in Mountain Top, and the Cardinal Laminated Glass (LG) plant in the Valley View Business Park in Archbald. The *Times Leader* article highlighted the Archbald plant and its production of laminated glass, which is typically used for architectural and residential purposes, such as blocking sound and preventing wind damage. A finished piece of laminated glass can withstand a strike from a baseball bat, and even holds up well against a sledgehammer and pickaxe. Laminated glass is a sturdy product that is meticulously crafted.

[Read More](#)

Penn's Northeast Reports Historic Regional Growth

John Augustine, President/CEO of [Penn's Northeast](#), said Northeastern PA is on a fast track for historic growth when it comes to economic development. "Because of our strategic location and talented workforce, we are seeing more companies looking to locate here than ever before," Augustine said. "Our region was just picked as one of the top 10 locations in the United States. Last year alone, the largest deals in the country took place in Northeastern PA." But Augustine quickly added, "We're not stopping there." He said in the past 10 years, Penn's Northeast has cataloged 245 industrial and office projects representing close to 53 million square feet of leases and sales. Most of the industrial space is built on former coal lands, restoring them with current economic benefits. Currently, Augustine said there are plans for more than 45 million square feet of new industrial development planned along the I-81 corridor. That is more space than anywhere else in the country.

[Read More](#)

The Latest from NEPIRC



From START to FINISH
NEPIRC'S GUIDE TO IMPACTFUL PLANT TOURS

Plant tours are important to your firm and to the manufacturing industry in general. Whether it's to advance the image of manufacturing, highlight a new technology, host an elected official, solidify a customer or supplier relationship or recruit new associates, plant tours give your company a great opportunity to shine.

Plant tours need to be coordinated and executed in ways that maximize positive outcomes. If the host company overlooks important details, it can negatively impact the overall experience. This guide helps manufacturers ensure that all the bases are covered during the plant tour preparation, execution and after-action phases so that every tour is a success!

NEPIRC

DOWNLOAD NOW »

NEPIRC Publishes Plant Tour Guide to Assist Manufacturers with Hosting Impactful Plant Tours

NEPIRC is pleased to announce that its latest resource, *From Start to Finish: NEPIRC's Guide to Impactful Plant Tours*, is now available for download! This brief checklist guide will help manufacturers ensure that all bases are covered when it comes to planning, coordinating and executing plant tours, which are so important to the manufacturing industry. Whether it's to advance the image of manufacturing, highlight a new technology, host an elected official, solidify a customer or supplier relationship or recruit new associates, plant tours give manufacturers a great opportunity to shine. This guide helps manufacturers ensure that all details are considered during the plant tour preparation, execution and after-action phases so that every tour is a success! [CLICK HERE](#) to download your copy.



Join the 75+ Companies Already Committed to Sponsoring NEPIRC's 2024 Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo!

75 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 Chelsey@NEPIRC.com or [CLICK HERE](#).

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

Manufacturers Deserve Recognition During National Small Business Week

National Small Business Week, which was April 28th to May 4th, is the celebration of entrepreneurial small business establishments that collectively drive our nation's economy. To kick off the week-long event, NEPIRC's President and CEO, Eric Joseph Esoda, penned an op-ed that was published in the *Times Leader*. We encourage you to take a few minutes to read it by [CLICKING HERE](#).



NEPIRC
NORTHERN TIER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Welcome

ASHLEY TICE

Northern Tier
Business Advisor

Congratulations

JENELLE OSBORNE

Talent Stream
Coordinator

NEPIRC Welcomes Ashley Tice and Congratulates Jenelle Osborne on Promotion

NEPIRC is pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Tice and promotion of Jenelle Osborne to further enhance NEPIRC's commitment to business advisory services for manufacturers throughout the region and workforce development.

Ashley joins NEPIRC as the new Northern Tier Business Advisor. With a background in the natural gas industry working in the areas of safety and field sales, Ashley will play a crucial role in providing guidance and support to businesses in Pennsylvania's Northern Tier region.

Jenelle, who previously served as NEPIRC's Manufacturing Dream Team Project Coordinator, has been promoted to full-time status as the company's Talent Stream Coordinator. This position, which is new to NEPIRC, will advance the organization's current manufacturing talent pipeline activities. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Ashley's and Jenelle's achievements!

NEPIRC's Dream Team Participates in JA Inspire and Wilkes University's Cars & Careers Event

Dream Team Ambassadors Zach Mulhern, Materials Manager at Ashley Machine & Tool, and Kate Logan, Quality Systems Manager at Noble Biomaterials, participated in the two-day Junior Achievement (JA) Inspire event held at Mohegan Pennsylvania on April 16 and 17. Nearly 2,500 high school students from Columbia, Lackawanna and Luzerne



counties attended this event, which featured hands-on, experiential exhibits and exposed students to various career opportunities.

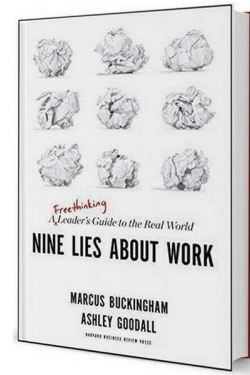
On Sunday, April 22, Wilkes University's American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Club hosted its 17th annual car show and added a job fair component this year featuring NEPIRC's Dream Team! Over 150 cars were on display, along with several food trucks, a DJ and a large crowd came out to support the Wilkes University ASME Club. Funds raised were donated to STAAR Ovarian Cancer Foundation. Participating Dream Team companies sponsored a car and spoke with job seekers about careers in manufacturing. Dream Team companies included JAM Works, SIMONA AMERICA Group, The AZEK Company and Noble Biomaterials.



Manufacturer of the Month: MetalKraft Industries

May's NEPIRC Manufacturer of the Month is [MetalKraft Industries](#) – a precision powdered metals company located in Wellsboro, Tioga County. For more than four decades this family-owned and operated business has been leading the way in innovative, customer-focused superior quality powdered metal production. The company provides a great work environment for more than 50 employees out of its modern 50,000 sq/ft facility that features advanced sintering, oil impregnation, resonance testing and automation equipment. Major customers within the automotive, lawn/garden, recreational vehicle, and alternative energy sectors include Flex-N-Gate, Ingersoll Rand and STIHL. Thanks to MetalKraft for keeping great products made in PA and supporting one of our rural communities!

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



NEPIRC has partnered 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.



Are you a professional who loves to read? Who loves digging your teeth into the latest and greatest leadership or professional development book? Then, you need to join NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club! NEPIRC's Book Club meets virtually from noon to 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, which means our next meeting is Thursday, May 23 via MS Teams.

This month, we'll discuss [Nine Lies About Work](#) by Marcus Buckingham and Ashley Goodall. To learn more about NEPIRC's Book Club and to sign up, [CLICK HERE](#).

Not able to make the May meeting but would like to join in June? Email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com to be added to the email invite list.



Upcoming Training Programs

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

Fall Protection, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, July 17, 8 a.m. to Noon, at the TekRidge Center in Jessup

OSHA 10, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, July 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, July 26, 8 a.m. to noon; virtually via MS Teams

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

- Thursday, August 1, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Companies in Need of Suppliers

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

- **WAVY Partition (Wood + Fabric)** – Rhode Island company seeking supplier of their WAVY Partition – a flexible and lightweight wooden panel combining plywood and foam into a structured wavy surface. Product is used as a privacy and acoustic screen in homes, offices, restaurants and hotels. Process consists of laminating plywood with Polyethylene (PE) foam using a press machine, applying clear lacquer and cutting slits with a CNC machine. Thickness is 2 cm, height ranges from 160-180 cm depending on model and width is 90 cm. Minimum radius of curvature is 9 cm. Current design utilizes 4 mm to 5 mm 3-layer plywood and PE foam. Estimates purchase is \$250K/year at cost of \$500/unit.
- **Glass Fabrication** – Illinois company searching for supplier of curved/semi-circular, phosphate-free glass. Thickness = 0.100 +/- .015, internal width = 1.69", height = .44", overall length = 2.44". Wavelength maximum transmission = 470-500 NM. Polished finish on both sides. Must pass humidity test ATPD-2167. Purchase will be for 3,000-4,000 units/year at desired price of \$25/unit. Drawings and other technical specifications available.
- **Glass Water/Juice Bottles** – Alaska company seeking to connect with manufacturer of 16 oz. glass water bottles for trendy beverage. Bottle is similar to those used by popular drinks like BAI, SYNERGY Kombucha and so forth. Lid may be plastic or metal twist-off. Bottle should be clear, blow-molded and capable of handling 200-degree fill temperatures. Client is expecting to need 100K units in 5K/order frequency at desired price of \$1/unit.
- **Epoxy Bottle-Cap Tightener Tool** – Tool is molded to fit the groves of a bottle cap during the final filling process to tighten it to a specified torque. The cap is placed lightly over the bottle top, at which time the tool will descend upon the cap, twist it to desired tightness and then retract so that the line can proceed and the next cap can be tightened. The tool is approximately 2" wide and socket is 1/4" x 1/8". Once a prototype batch of 12 units is provided a purchase of several thousand units will be authorized. Drawings available upon request. Buyer believes that the unit can be produced either through additive manufacturing (3D printing) or through epoxy-filled molding process.



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