



Your Source for Monthly Manufacturing News

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Manufacturing News from our Nation, State and Region

National News

Biden Administration Gives Federal Contractors Until Dec. 8 to Comply with Vaccine Mandate

Federal contractors have until Dec. 8 to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The [guidance](#), issued by the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force, details how agencies and federal contractors should comply with President Biden's Sept. 9 [executive order](#).



The order described the process agencies will take to embed new safety protocols, which include the requirement that contractors be fully vaccinated, as clauses in government contracts and contract-like instruments. This includes employees of a company who are not actually working on a government contract or contract-like instrument, the task force said. The vaccine policies also apply to certain subcontractors and small businesses. It also applies to federal contractors working from home.

In addition, federal contractors must comply with masking and physical distancing requirements and designate specific individuals to coordinate COVID-19 safety initiatives at their workplaces. Contractors will ensure their employees comply with these mandates, meaning they're responsible for collecting vaccination information and considering and granting reasonable accommodations to those who have a medical or religious objection, the administration said.

For more information on these COVID-19 protocols for federal contractors, please [CLICK HERE](#).

NIIMBL Releases Video Promoting Diversity in Advanced Manufacturing

Advanced manufacturing creates millions of well-paid careers in industries from robotics to semiconductors. The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) sponsored Manufacturing USA® institute, the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), created the NIIMBL eXperience to offer undergraduate students from historically Black colleges and universities real-world insight into careers in the biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry. The goals of the program are to raise awareness of the industry and its role in human health and well-being, as well as improve recruitment of a vast talented and diverse workforce. This video features one student's experience in this program exploring advanced manufacturing with a mechanical engineering degree, and the industry opportunities and insights it revealed. [CLICK HERE to listen to this student's story.](#)



State Update

Manufacturing PA Innovation Program - Request for Proposals

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is now soliciting proposals from researcher-led teams at any accredited PA college/university engaged in a research project that seeks to advance a new product or process innovation with a PA manufacturer. In this cycle, nearly \$1.9 million may be made available for research projects. Award levels for individual projects can range from \$25,000 to \$70,000.



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Manufacturing PA Innovation Program's goal is to leverage the internationally-acclaimed science and engineering talent and discovery capacity of all Pennsylvania's institutions of higher education to help ensure that Pennsylvania remains a national and international leader in manufacturing and achieves the full economic potential for well-paying manufacturing jobs.

Applications are due by **November 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm**. Please consult the manufacturingPA.org website for more information and to submit a proposal.

Also, any PA manufacturer that is interested in partnering with a university/college on a project, but has not identified a faculty collaborator, may complete an inquiry form on the Manufacturing PA website. Company information will be circulated to PA universities/colleges associated with the program and the names of interested faculty will be provided to the company for follow-up. Please email Eric Esoda, NEPIRC President & CEO, at Eric@NEPIRC.com should you have any questions regarding this process.

PA DCED Releases Annual Report Outlining WEDNet PA Free Training Program

Recently, PA DCED issued an annual report summarizing the [WEDNet PA Free Training Program](#), which has helped manufacturers throughout the Commonwealth upgrade the skillsets of their workforce. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about WEDNet PA and for success stories from fellow manufacturers!



If you'd like to learn more about how WEDNet PA can be of assistance to your manufacturing business, please contact Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC VP of Consulting Operations, at Dale@NEPIRC.com, Marla Hager, NEPIRC Senior Business Advisor, at Marla@NEPIRC.com or Brandon Henrie, NEPIRC Business Advisor, at

Regional News

MetalKraft Industries Breaks Ground for Expansion Project

Congratulations to [MetalKraft Industries](#), a world-class manufacturer of precision sintered metal components, on recently breaking ground to expand its flagship production facility in Wellsboro. As a result of the expansion, MetalKraft will be better positioned to meet growing customer demand and strengthen its competitive advantage. The construction and new equipment purchase initiative will not only add 9,000 square feet to the company's footprint but will also bring in new state-of-the-art semi-automated CNC machining equipment and mechanical compacting presses. In all, the project will expand MetalKraft's production capability by 33%.



To finance a portion of the project, MetalKraft turned to NEPIRC and our Economic Development Administration (EDA) loan program, which provided low interest rate financing that dovetailed nicely with the company's existing banking relationships.

NEPIRC is proud to have been able to play a part in making MetalKraft's expansion a reality!

Regional Manufacturers Looking for Alternative Ways to Attract a Workforce

With several local manufactures having difficulties hiring, they are turning to alternative ways to attract a workforce, including utilizing NEPIRC's [Manufacturing Job Board](#). With over 80 companies already featured, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Job board is free for manufacturers and job seekers and is easy to use. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit NEPIRC's Manufacturing Job Board, and you can also learn more by watching Eric Esoda's [interview](#) on local daytime television show *PA Live!*



If your company would like to be featured on NEPIRC's Manufacturing Job Board, please email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

If your company has great news you'd like us to share with our manufacturing community, please contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

NEPIRC News

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Day Video Tribute Generates 8,500 Views

In honor of Manufacturing Day on Friday, October 1st, NEPIRC launched a special video tribute highlighting the

roles manufacturers and their team members played in our lives over the past year. Within just a couple weeks, the video tribute generated over 8,500 views across NEPIRC's various social media platforms – and that number continues to increase daily. NEPIRC also used the video as a way to thank its MFG DAY 2021 sponsors, which are listed at the end of the production, for their continued support of NEPIRC's [MFG DAY 2021½ event](#) on May 6th, 2022 at the Mohegan Sun Pocono Convention Center. If you haven't yet watched the MFG DAY video tribute, or if you'd like to re-watch, [CLICK HERE!](#)



NEPIRC's COVID-19 Response Efforts Earn IEDC International Silver Award

Earlier this month, NEPIRC received a Silver Award for Excellence in Economic Development from the [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#), the world's largest association of economic development professionals, for its COVID-19 response services for manufacturers.



In the midst of the pandemic, nearly 1,800 small and mid-sized manufacturers benefitted from NEPIRC's COVID-19 response programs – with more than 100 receiving customized COVID-19 recovery plans and implementation assistance. NEPIRC's efforts allowed regional manufacturers to avoid 6,361 job layoffs and retain \$124.7 million in sales that otherwise would have been lost due to supply chain disruptions, temporary closure, workforce shortages or other COVID-19 consequences.

According to the IEDC, NEPIRC's COVID-19 services “exemplify flexibility, adaptability, innovation and client-focus.” Manufacturers are encouraged to contact NEPIRC at Info@NEPIRC.com for more information about our COVID-19 recovery, workforce training and engineering services. To read more about this prestigious award, please [CLICK HERE](#).

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Month Celebration a True Success!

Throughout October, NEPIRC published daily social media content highlighting the value of manufacturing to the northeastern, northern tier, and central Pennsylvania region and highlighted the region's manufacturers, current workforce, career opportunities and products. NEPIRC's Manufacturing Month initiative also helped to increase community awareness by the placement of advertisements, infographics, editorial contributions and other content across a broad mix of paid media. These efforts were made possible with the support of NEPIRC's MFG DAY sponsors, a listing of which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Even though Manufacturing Month is coming to a close, you'll still want to receive the latest manufacturing news and updates, so please follow NEPIRC on Facebook by [CLICKING HERE](#), follow us on LinkedIn by [CLICKING HERE](#) and subscribe to NEPIRC's YouTube channel by [CLICKING HERE](#).

NEPIRC's “Free Training Fridays” Series Now Available on YouTube

In case you happened to miss NEPIRC's "Free Training

Fridays" series on our social media throughout October, you can now watch all sessions by visiting NEPIRC's [YouTube](#) page. The videos are located under the heading, "Videos for Manufacturers."

Within the "Free Training Friday" series, you will find topics like Six Sigma Yellow Belt, instructed by [Brian Matyjevich](#), NEPIRC's Lean Enterprise Consultant; the Project Management Triangle, taught by [Leo Gilroy](#), NEPIRC's Director, Strategy & Innovation;

Collaborative Robotics, led by [Dale Parmenteri](#), NEPIRC's VP of Consulting Operations; and ISO 9001:2015, instructed by Ray Kryeski, NEPIRC's Mechanical Engineer. If you'd like to learn more about how NEPIRC can assist your company with any of the "Free Training Friday" featured topics, please email Info@NEPIRC.com.



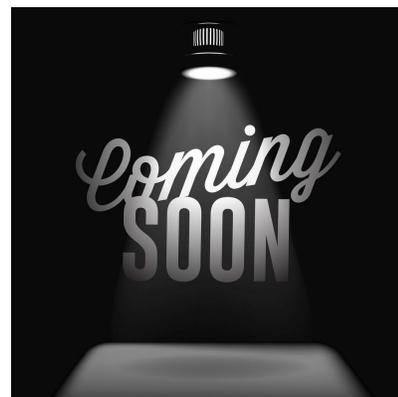
Register Today for NEPIRC's Operational Excellence for Lean Practice Program

Join [Steve Goul](#), NEPIRC's Mechanical Engineer, on Tuesdays from November 16th through December 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as he teaches this course, which is a refreshed version of NEPIRC's previous Lean Specialist Certificate Program. This course involves in-person instruction on understanding lean principles and their successful, practical implementation in your business or production environment. The class will include hands-on simulation that demonstrates the foundations of lean thinking and processing. Additionally, each student will be entitled to two hours of 1:1 coaching with a NEPIRC service delivery staff member at the student's place of employment. This course is eligible for WEDnetPA funding and will be held at NEPIRC. For more information or to register, [CLICK HERE!](#)



NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club - Coming Soon!

NEPIRC is excited to announce that we are replacing the *NEPIRC NEWS* "What We're Reading" section with a monthly hybrid book club! Each month, book club members will meet either virtually or in person (their preference) to review and discuss a *New York Times* best selling business or professional development book. Keep an eye out for next month's *NEPIRC NEWS* e-newsletter, which will announce the first book being covered and initial meeting details. Stay tuned!



New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

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

- **Durable Plastic Resins** – A New York-based manufacturer is currently using *Dow 8920 Surlyn* and is seeking a durable plastic resin replacement with the capability of being injected and molded into a part weighing roughly 101g and then compression molded over a wooden core. Max compression molding temperature is 190°F. Potential volumes are 10,000lbs/week, \$3.00/lb.

- **Electrospun Protein Sheets** – A western Pennsylvania manufacturer is looking for a supplier to electrospin sheets of protein product used for wound coverings. Manufacturing specifications are 2” x 2”, 4” x 4”, and 8” x 8” squares using soy protein isolate, polyethylene oxide (PEO) and water. Potential volumes are 100,000units/month, \$0.20/4” x 4”.

Companies interested in these supplier opportunities are encouraged to contact Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC's Vice President of Consulting Operations, at Dale@NEPIRC.com. Please use “Supplier Opportunity” as the subject line for an immediate response!

Use these quick links to learn more about NEPIRC:

[Upcoming events](#)

[Visit us on the web](#)

[E-mail us](#)

