

November 3, 2015

NEC Advanced Manufacturing Working Group Update

Dear NEC Advanced Manufacturing Working Group member –

Wow, what a first year the Working Group has had! Your efforts to help make the NEC-Deloitte advanced manufacturing study an important part of the discussion in New England have been extraordinarily successful. From the Working Group's first meeting in Boston on October 1, 2014 to the sixth and final state "rollout" event for the report in Maine on September 30, 2015, this has been a banner 12-month period. We cannot thank you enough for your dedication, your insight, and your participation.

I wanted to attach a few documents to demonstrate our progress, including a listing of all of the events that have occurred to promote the report in recent months (and a couple on the horizon), as well as clips and OpEds related to/referencing the study.

Moving forward, it is my hope that in the next year, the Working Group can accomplish the following three priorities:

1) Form State Planning Offices with Quarterly Conference Calls and Annual or Semi-Annual Meetings – We need to keep the momentum going, and the best way to do that is to keep those who have participated in our briefings and events engaged. The report suggests the establishment of a planning office in each state to help coordinate the implementation of the six recommendations. By forming these planning organizations/groups, we will have a key list of identified supporters in each state willing to continue the dialogue and the spread of information and best practices. Those six state groups should speak regularly, through quarterly conference calls and 1-2 in-person meetings each year, with the NEC Working Group acting as a de facto "regional program coordinator."

2) With the New England Congressional Delegation, Introduce and Promote a “Make It In New England” Legislative Agenda – Akin to the national “Make It In America” agenda of House Democrats, led by House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), a package of bills that can help New England’s advanced manufacturing industry flourish will help keep key federal policymakers engaged in our efforts. Working with the offices of all 33 New England Senators and Representatives, our goal is to get as many of them as possible interested in promoting legislation that our Working Group feels would help make progress on our identified recommendations in the report. This will likely be a key topic at our next in-person meeting, which we hope to schedule in December.

3) Continue Outreach and Communications Efforts – Key to the success of this report has been ensuring that it gets in the hands of as many people in industry, higher education, and government as possible. We have worked to do this through events, OpEds, social media, and word of mouth. We must sustain this activity in the coming year, with additional opportunities to present the report’s findings and recommendations at conferences, economic development meetings, organization-sponsored events, and briefings throughout the region and in Washington, D.C. We also hope to continue to grow the number of voices weighing in on the importance of this report, including through OpEds for local newspapers and business journals, appearances on regional television news programs, and additional opportunities that arise. If you would like to submit an OpEd, or can think of an organization that would benefit from learning about the report, please let us know.

Thank you all for everything you have done to make this Working Group and this fantastic report such a success. We look forward to another year of continued success. As always, please be in touch if you have any questions or ideas on how to collaboratively promote advanced manufacturing in New England through the Working Group.

Best,

Chris