



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTERN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE REGIONAL SECTOR PARTNERSHIP (EAMA RSP) RESPONDS TO HISTORIC HIRING GROWTH

Franklin, CT – The Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (*EAMA RSP*) has been intensifying its efforts to advance the priorities of Eastern Connecticut manufacturers in response to an unprecedented regional hiring boom. While the growth plans of EAMA RSP member General Dynamics Electric Boat (*EB*) have attracted headlines – [EB wants to hire 5,750 people in 2023 alone](#) – attracting and retaining workers represents a significant challenge for the 35 EAMA RSP member companies of all sizes. The EAMA RSP has therefore identified preparing current workers and expanding the future manufacturing workforce pipeline as its top priorities.

Formed in 2022, the EAMA RSP is Eastern Connecticut’s industry-driven manufacturing regional sector partnership. The EAMA RSP brings together company leaders who identify common issues, challenges, and opportunities within their industry and define the priorities they want to address. The members of the EAMA RSP are supported by over 20 partners who represent education, workforce development, and economic and community development.

During the March EAMA RSP meeting, employer members volunteered for one of the three sub-committees created by the EAMA RSP Steering Committee to address industry-identified priorities. The **Workforce & Outreach** sub-committee advances strategies to attract, recruit, develop, and retain skilled workers by: a) providing industry input critical to the implementation of the national-award-winning [Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative \(MPI\)](#); b) supporting the [Youth MPI](#) and other efforts to attract K-12 students to manufacturing; and c) sharing best practices for engaging and retaining existing employees. A **Business-to-Business** sub-committee focuses on enhancing supply chains and strengthening Connecticut’s manufacturing ecosystem, and a **Plastics Industry Training** sub-committee is developing an industry-designed, short-term plastics curriculum.

Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance – A Connecticut Regional Sector Partnership

EAMA RSP Director Anthony Benoit, formerly Director of Engineering Technology at Three Rivers Community College, said, *“The collaboration of manufacturing employers, educators, and other community members brings the right expertise and outlook to build creative solutions to our regional challenges and to keep eastern Connecticut thriving.”*

The EAMA RSP Steering Committee revealed during the March meeting provides strategic direction to the industry driven RSP. Steering Committee members are **Chris Jewell**, Collins & Jewell (*Bozrah*); **Joe Carlone**, Linemaster Switch (*Woodstock*); **Reid Chamberlin**, Sonoco Protective Solutions (*Putnam*); **Ray Coombs**, Westminster Tool (*Plainfield*); **Shawn Coyne**, Electric Boat (*Groton*); **Charles Daniels**, Wepco Plastics (*Middlefield*); and **Jeff Dickey**, The Lee Company (*Westbrook*).

“The Steering Committee members have the experience and dedication needed to guide the EAMA RSP to face our employer members’ common challenges and accomplish our individual and collective goals,” said Chris Jewell, EAMA RSP Chair and President of Collins & Jewell Company. *“The most important thing we have learned over the past 15 years is that we can accomplish so much more when we work together.”*

The Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (*EWIB*) convenes the EAMA RSP and has coordinated collaboration among regional manufacturers and support partners since 2008. Over the past 15 years, what is now the EAMA RSP has earned recognition as a national model for industry-driven partnerships, including for the development, implementation, and expansion of the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*), which has placed more than 3,200 workers into employment since 2015.

Also announced at the March meeting was the launch of the EAMA RSP web page as a resource for RSP members and the Eastern Connecticut manufacturing community. The new webpage can be found at <https://www.ewib.org/EAMA-RSP>.

Eastern Connecticut manufacturers that do not currently participate in the EAMA RSP and are interested in becoming employer members, as well as other stakeholders who would like more information about the EAMA RSP, should please contact eama-rsp@ewib.org.

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