

# *News of Interest to EAMA RSP*

April 2024

1. *CTMirror* article (4/9/24): The U.S. House passed the “A Stronger Workforce for America Act.” It now moves to the Senate for passage. The bipartisan bill reauthorizes and updates “The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,” a law that has been in place since 2014. WIOA provides the foundational funding for the regional public workforce system that coordinates the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI). Read the article [here](#). Congressman Courtney also testified on the House floor in support of the bill and highlighted the success of the MPI. Watch the video [here](#).
2. *Hartford Business Journal* (4/4/24) (Paywall): The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) officially opened its Talent & Training Accelerator, offering new programs for local manufacturers to upskill their workforce and ramp up their digital capabilities. Read more [here](#).
3. *Hartford Business Journal* (4/3/24) (Paywall): Congratulations to EAMA RSP member Mary Fitzgerald, President of Acme Wire as a Leadership and “Women of Distinction Award Winner at the 2024 American Manufacturing Hall of Fame induction. Read about the other prestigious inductees [here](#).
4. *Hartford Courant* article (3/11/24) (Paywall): CT’s congressional delegation blasted the Pentagon’s decision to cut a Virginia class submarine built by Electric Boat from its proposed fiscal year 2025 defense budget. “If such a cut is actually enacted, it will remove one more attack submarine from a fleet that is already 17 submarines below the Navy’s long stated requirement of 66,” said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney. U.S Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy released a joint statement calling the submarine budget cut “a concerning departure from our two-per-year production goals” and they said it puts at risk “U.S. undersea superiority and alliance commitments made under AUKUS to improve Indo-Pacific security.” Read more [here](#).
5. *CBIA* article (3/7/24): The legislature’s **Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee** is considering expanding the apprenticeship tax credit for manufacturing and trades companies. **SB 302** also establishes a pilot program for students in grades four to six interested in learning more about career opportunities in the trades. Read more [here](#).
6. *Plastics News* (2/27/24) (Paywall): Hannah Coombs Belmont, Westminster Tool, is interviewed about the company’s efforts to combat misconceptions about the manufacturing industry. Among the tools in their arsenal are their strategies involving career fairs, high school student engagement and targeted career awareness campaigns. Hannah also credits their active involvement with EAMA RSP and EWIB. Read the article [here](#).
7. *CTMirror* article (2/27/24): A study, conducted by Ernst & Young with CONNSTEP, found that critical manufacturing sectors in the state are experiencing declining jobs and a lack of capital to help innovative companies grow. CONNSTEP Chief Executive Beatriz Gutierrez highlighted important investments being made to develop high-tech industry within the state within CONNSTEP and the DECD [Office of Manufacturing](#), as well as the state college and university system and the [Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology](#). Read the article [here](#). You can find the full report [here](#).
8. *Hartford Business Journal* article (2/19/24) (Paywall): To address a shortage of engineers, several CT universities are expanding their programs; among them are University of St. Joseph in West Hartford and the University of Connecticut. Learn details about their programs [here](#).
9. *CBIA* article (2/23/24): During their annual legislative briefing in Mystic, Electric Boat President Kevin Graney highlighted the strength of the workforce development pipeline programs in the area. “I believe this is the secret weapon we have,” Graney said. The company continues to invest in supporting the supply chain, including awarding \$2 billion to 351 Connecticut companies over the past five years. Read more [here](#).
10. *CT Examiner* article (2/16/24): Governor Lamont launched the Connecticut Wind Collaborative to help coordinate a multi-state effort to build the offshore wind industry. Paul Whitescarver, Executive Director of seCTer has been named Secretary of the 501(c)3. Read more [here](#).

For a list of Upcoming Events visit: <https://www.ewib.org/EAMA-RSP/Events-News>