

ACTION TEAM UPDATES

The following **action team updates** highlight how industry leaders and education partners are working together to build a stronger manufacturing workforce—with a focus on career pathways, employee retention, and aligned regional training. These efforts support the RSP's shared vision of a coordinated, industry-led talent pipeline.



Photographed at Unimetal Surface Finishing in Thomaston, CT are, from left, Montez King and Alex Starner of NIMS, Jameson Grout of Hubbard–Hall, Bob Ronalter of American Electro, Patrick Hayden of Unimetal, Derek Lanz of Waterbury Plating, Skip Griffin of Metal Finishing Technologies, LLC, George LaCapra Jr. of Unimetal and Benjamin Day of Summit Plating.

M.E.T.A.L. (Mastering Electroplating Through Applied Learning) Program

Leader: George LaCapra Jr., UniMetal Surface Finishing

Industry Partners: American Electro, Hubbard–Hall, Inc., Metal Finishing Technologies, LLC, Summit Plating, UniMetal Surface Finishing, Waterbury Plating & Painting LLC, Whyco Finishing Technologies, LLC

Vendors: Wisewire, NIMS

Status: In alignment with the RSP's goal of industry-led training, the team has developed a curriculum with WiseWire and NIMS that leads to NIMS certification and focuses on essential plating skills. The 40-hour, 2-week program includes 8 hands-on modules and will be delivered at MASC in Waterbury. Classroom build-outs and equipment purchases are currently underway.

Launch: Fall 2025

ACTION TEAM UPDATES

continued



Hearts and Minds: Manufacturing Pathways CT Tour Days

Leader: Suzette Herrick, Unipharm

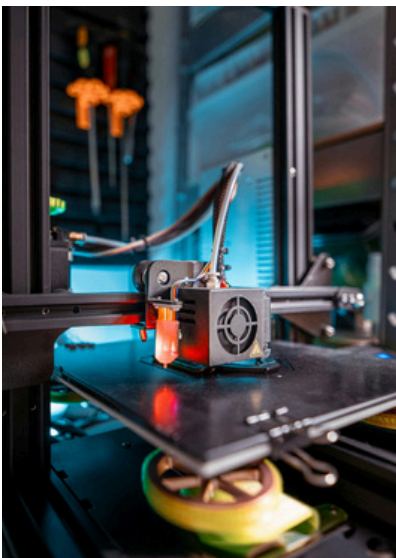
Industry Partners: ARCH Medical Solutions, Commercial Sewing, EdAdvance, Lesser Evil, Unipharm

Community Partners: ReadyCT, MASC, EdAdvance, Smaller Manufacturers Association

Status: In support of the RSP's commitment to early exposure and awareness, this initiative connects students directly with local manufacturing careers. Manufacturing tour days are being planned for Fall 2025 (**October 3**) and Spring 2026 (**February 6**) in collaboration with EdAdvance and participating manufacturers. Tours will be offered to high school students across Northwest Connecticut.

Schools and employers **interested in participating should contact:**

✉ helen.brickfield@nrwib.org



Digital Manufacturing 101

Leader: Chris Olson, H-O Products Corp.

Presented by: Laura McCarthy, CT State Northwest

Team: Resource Development Associates, CT State NW
Industry Partners: Commercial Sewing, Fairchild Automated Parts, Ward Leonard

Status: This 10-week intensive course was created to upskill workers and bridge entry-level talent into high-tech manufacturing roles. Developed by CT State NW and employer partners, the program includes foundational training in manufacturing processes, measurement and SolidWorks. Offered as a non-credit

certification through CT State, this course provides a clear pathway into more advanced programs.

Cost: \$1,000 • **Location:** Oliver Wolcott Tech • **Launch:** Fall 2025

NORTHWEST CT MANUFACTURING RSP UPDATE: SPRING 2025

Get Involved in the Northwest CT Manufacturing Partnership

Our Mission:

Northwest Connecticut's manufacturing industry is full of growth potential—and we're working together to make sure our communities benefit. The **Northwest CT Manufacturing Partnership** is the region's first industry-led, collaborative effort to grow the manufacturing workforce and promote career opportunities to key audiences.

Launched in 2021 and supported by the **Good Jobs Challenge** since 2022, the Partnership is advancing its mission through three targeted Action Teams.



 Hearts & Minds  M.E.T.A.L.  Digital Manufacturing

You Can Help!

We're actively seeking Industry Champions to join one of our three Action Teams and help shape the future of manufacturing in our region.

Whether you're a manufacturer, educator, community organization, or public partner—your voice matters in this work. Together, we can drive innovative training, inspire the future workforce, and simplify access to opportunity across Northwest Connecticut.



Interested in joining? Reach out to us at nwctmanufacturing.com

Spring RSP Job Fair

Connecting Talent with Opportunity in Healthcare & Manufacturing

On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), in collaboration with the **Connecticut Department of Labor and Career Resources, Inc.**, hosted the Spring Healthcare and Manufacturing Regional Sector Partnership Job Fair at the **American Job Center Northwest** in Waterbury.

The event welcomed an impressive **178** job seekers, including participants from the Good Jobs Challenge, who connected with over **20** local employers actively hiring in manufacturing, healthcare, and related sectors. The job fair featured **8** manufacturers and **8** healthcare organizations, all eager to share employment opportunities and meet potential candidates.



Job seekers had the chance to explore a range of in-demand roles including:

- Registered Nurse
- Machinist
- Inspector
- School Bus Driver
- Environmental Services Aide
- Assembly Machine Operator
- ...and more.

This event reflected the power of sector-based collaboration, not only in streamlining access to career opportunities but also in aligning local training efforts with real-time employer needs. As part of NRWIB's ongoing commitment to employer engagement and talent pipeline development, the fair brought together business, workforce, and training partners under one roof—creating meaningful connections that support both economic growth and individual advancement.

Interested in hiring at our next event?

Mark your calendars: The Fall RSP Job Fair will be held on **October 15, 2025**. To participate, email helen.brickfield@nrwib.org.

2025 CT Manufacturing Careers Roadshow

Inspiring Over 500 Students to Explore the Future of Manufacturing in Waterbury

On May 8, 2025, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), in collaboration with **ReadyCT** and the **Manufacturing Alliance Service Corporation (MASC)**, proudly hosted the **2025 CT Manufacturing Careers Roadshow** at MASC's state-of-the-art training facility in Waterbury.

The event welcomed more than 500 students from over 20 area high schools and offered an exciting, hands-on introduction to the many dynamic and high-paying careers available in Connecticut's manufacturing sector.



Students explored:

- Advanced robotics and automation demos
- Virtual reality modules used in modern manufacturing
- Employer exhibits and career pathway stations
- Hands-on experiences with educators and training providers



New this year was the debut of the **Connecticut Manufacturing Hall of Fame** display, which celebrated 300 years of industrial innovation and achievement across the state—highlighting Connecticut's proud history and promising future in manufacturing.

The CT Manufacturing Careers Roadshow series is designed to spark interest and awareness among middle and high school students by exposing them to the diverse, technology-driven, and rewarding careers available in today's manufacturing industry.

As a cornerstone of NRWIB's **Hearts and Minds Action Team** within the Manufacturing Regional Sector Partnership, the event demonstrates our region's ongoing commitment to building a strong talent pipeline by connecting education, industry, and innovation.

Check out great photos from the event below, taken by Jay Dunn for NRWIB.

2025 CT Manufacturing Careers Roadshow photos

