

EAMA RSP VIRTUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

8:30 a.m.



WELCOME

Committee Co-Chairman Chris Jewell welcomed everyone & called the meeting to order.

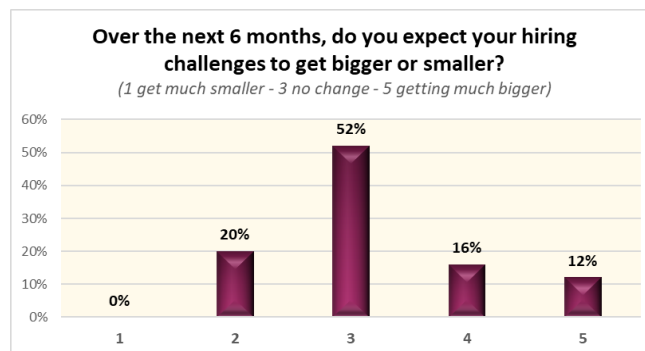
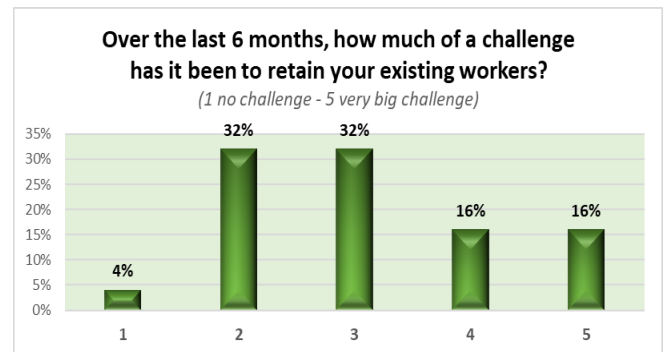
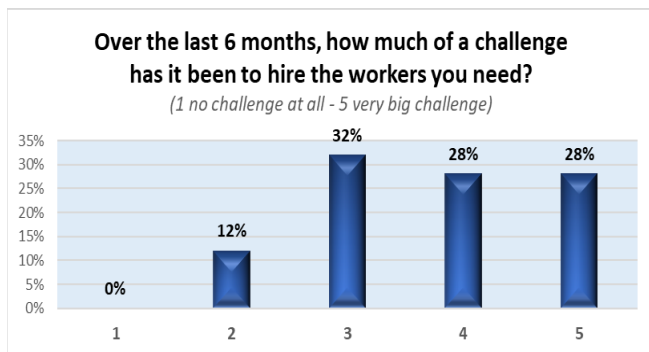
COMMUNICATION

Co-Chairman Jewell shared three media articles with the group:

- *The Bulletin* article (10/12/22): [“Needed expansion ~ Facility projects and job growth lie ahead for Collins & Jewell.”](#) On Oct. 11th Collins & Jewell hosted U.S. Sen. Blumenthal & U.S. Rep. Courtney (CT-2) where they discussed the need for expansion as a supplier for Electric Boat resulting from the increased submarine production over the next several years by EB
- *CT Mirror* article (10/16/22): [“In eastern CT, Electric Boat military contracts launch economic boom.”](#) The article focused on Eastern CT’s workforce development supporting Electric Boat and their regional supply chain
- *The Bulletin* article (10/17/22): [“How to develop the ‘workforce of tomorrow’ for Conn. Manufacturers? Start in kindergarten.”](#) The article reports on a press conference that was held on Oct. 16th with CT Sen. Osten (19th Dist.) announcing a pilot program expanding the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) into middle and elementary schools.

EMPLOYER TEMPERATURE CHECK: INSTANT POLL

Three poll questions were put out to the group surrounding their short-term hiring needs (vs. mid- to long-term hiring needs that were part of the employer survey recently sent out). The results of the instant poll showed that:



EAMA RSP TRANSITION UPDATE

Co-Chairman Jewell informed the group that during the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance's (EAMA's) last Board of Directors meeting the group unanimously voted to dissolve the organization, and to have the RSP will become an ad-hoc committee of EWIB. These changes will have no impact on the RSP or its mission. The change is merely administrative and will result in overhead administrative cost savings, as well as offer manufacturers the ability to speak as one voice on issues.

UPDATES ON EAMA RSP RESPONSIBILITIES & INITIATIVES

- **Youth MPI** – John Murphy reported that a press conference was held with Sen. Cathy Osten (CT 19th Dist.) at the Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School on October 16th where the pilot program expanding the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) into middle and elementary schools was announced. David Allard reported on the demonstration of an Oculus virtual reality headset as part of the press conference. The pilot expansion is being run at Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School, Helen Baldwin Middle School, and the Plainfield School District. Twelve (12) VR headsets featuring programs such as welding, fire control, etc., have been purchased (4 to each school) & are being shared across the participating pilot school districts. Co-Chairman Jewell noted that this was an excellent way for career exploration in the manufacturing sector without the risks associated with traditional methods in the workshop floor.
- **Plastics Program Review Work Group** – Reid Chamberlin reported that eight (8) regional plastic manufacturers are meeting once a month to build off Quinebaug Valley Community College's Plastics program curriculum to identify prerequisites to relaunch an updated Plastics pipeline program. Once the pre-requisites are identified, the group will meet with the college (QVCC) to discuss implementation. He noted that the group is always looking to add new regional Plastics manufacturers who are committed to filling the classes once the training is developed. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ray Coombs at rayc@westminstertool.com.
- **Business-to-Business Connections** – Tony Benoit reported that MIF fund will be sending money to CONNSTEP to implement a vendors database that will be free to anyone in the state who is looking for CT supplier. For those looking for an out-of-state supplier there will be a fee. Beta testing of the database will begin in about a month. CONNSTEP will be looking for 10-50 manufacturing companies for early adopters.

DISCUSSION OF EAMA RSP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **EAMA RSP Employer Survey Results** –
 - **Members Strategic Priorities** – Expanding the YMPI and K-12 awareness was the #1 top priority for respondents. When ranking items 1st-3rd, supporting the YMPI was tied with Educating the Workforce (supporting the MPI/Incumbent Worker Training) as the top vote-getter.
 - **Written Suggestions** – Several of the comments provided during the survey were shared, which included "Unification through participation," providing leadership training, sharing resources, marketing manufacturing careers (as far back as elementary school), provide leadership training.
 - **Single Most Important Issue Respondent's Companies Facing that they Would Like the RSP to Held Address in the Coming Year**
 1. Finding Workers (11)
 2. Worker Retention (5)
 3. State Challenges (3)
 4. Strengthening CT Supply Chain (2)
 - **Potential Committees** – A sample RSP organization chart was shared which included five suggested committees: Business-to-Business, Workforce Best Practice Sharing, Future Workforce, Workforce Preparation, & Plastics Program Development. A discussion was held regarding the suggested committees, as well as requests for volunteers to serve on each of the committees that were decided on.
 - **Future RSP Meetings** – Results showed that most members prefer future RSP meetings to be held in a Hybrid fashion, and from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in early/mid-January 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in a hybrid fashion.