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REGION'S MANUFACTURING PIPELINE ECLIPSES 5,000 JOB PLACEMENTS; ECONOMIST SAYS IT'S A REGIONAL ECONOMIC DRIVER

Franklin, CT – August 29, 2025 – As we celebrate the contributions American workers make to our country's strength and prosperity on Labor Day, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board's partners in the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) have an announcement worth celebrating. The Board announced Friday that the regional project has surpassed a major milestone by placing 5,000 people into employment since its launch in 2016.

One of the state's leading economists recently conducted an impartial, independent analysis of the program's outcome data to assess what this achievement means to the regional and state economy. DataCore Partners Chief Economist Don Klepper-Smith said the 5,000 placements represent the creation of 12,750 direct and indirect jobs, \$175 million in direct annual wages, and another \$200 million in indirect economic activity since 2016. Klepper-Smith explained that the program's job placements create "strong multipliers on jobs, income, consumer spending, and associated tax revenue." Klepper-Smith also noted the region's improved housing market, observing that the average sales price of single-family homes in Eastern Connecticut has increased by 87% since the program's inception in 2016.

The Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) coordinates the MPI and convenes the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP). Fifty EAMA RSP member manufacturers ensure that the program prepares unemployed and underemployed people – 80% of whom have no previous manufacturing experience – for immediately available, entry-level jobs leading to family-wage careers. "The MPI's secret sauce is its responsiveness to not only the workforce needs of large defense contractors like General Dynamics Electric Boat but also the more than 40 smaller EAMA RSP members who have hired graduates," said Chris Jewell, EWIB and EAMA RSP Chair and President of Collins & Jewell Company in Bozrah. "As a small business owner and an Eastern Connecticut resident, I appreciate what the MPI has meant to the regional and state manufacturing industry and to our economy." The program's economic impact has been felt across Connecticut, as more than 300 employers have hired training graduates.

The MPI's success has garnered national attention. In 2020, the National Association of Workforce Boards recognized EWIB and the MPI with its Chair's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Partnership. Five consecutive U.S. Labor Secretaries have visited the region to see the program. Most recently, current Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer visited Electric Boat in Groton on August 29 as part of her "America at Work" tour. During her visit, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer met with EB leaders and workers and learned about the MPI from EWIB President/CEO Michael Nogelo.

"We're proud that our partnership has helped 5,000 workers move from unemployment or low-wage, often part-time jobs into manufacturing careers with good wages, benefits, steady hours, and room for growth," said Nogelo. "Eastern Connecticut manufacturers are poised to grow for years to come, so we're focused on continuing to meet their talent needs and promoting career opportunities for the next 5,000 workers."

Our Core Values: Partnership - Innovation - Accountability - Efficiency - Continuous Improvement

About the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB)

EWIB coordinates a regional workforce development system that promotes economic vitality and equitable opportunity by preparing workers for in-demand, quality jobs on career pathways. EWIB's network of partners implement programs and initiatives including three American Job Centers, industry-driven manufacturing and healthcare workforce pipelines, workforce preparation programs for youth, and services for employers. For more information, visit www.ewib.org.

About the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP)

The EAMA RSP is Eastern Connecticut's industry-driven manufacturing regional sector partnership. EAMA RSP exists to advance the strategic priorities of regional manufacturers by providing a forum for manufacturers to articulate their collective needs for workforce education and training directly to regional and statewide support partners. For more information, visit www.ewib.org/EAMA-RSP.

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