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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **Explore Manufacturing Expo – September 28, 2023**

#### **Inviting 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn about Manufacturing Career opportunities**

The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce has announced it will host its annual Manufacturing Career Expo on a larger scale this year. The GNACC has partnered with **ReadyCT's** Manufacturing Careers Roadshow to deliver the **Explore Manufacturing Expo on Thursday, September 28, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Dodd Stadium in Norwich.**

The free event is an opportunity for Eastern CT students in grades 7-12 to discover in-demand manufacturing career opportunities, learn about the industry, experience future technology, and explore hands on manufacturing simulations.

Angela Adams, Executive Director at the GNACC said the Expo's main goal is to inspire students to consider careers in manufacturing as an alternative to attending college. "As we look at the future of employment in the region, manufacturing offers access to good salaries, health benefits, regular hours, and job security," said Adams. "We have been encouraging students for years to pursue higher education as the pathway to those opportunities, but that isn't for everyone and there are job opportunities available for students that aren't interested in a 4-year college degree."

At the Expo students will have the opportunity to engage with local manufacturers such as Electric Boat, Collins and Jewell, Nordson, Westminster Tool, Davis Standard, Acme Wire Products, and many more.

The Expo will also feature interactive activities such as virtual reality manufacturing simulations with Oculus, mobile manufacturing labs hosted by EASTCONN and Goodwin college, and an interactive "cobot" (collaborative robot) station offered by the CT Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT).

The GNACC Education & Workforce Development Committee has partnered with organizations such as **ReadyCT**, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (**EWIB**), and the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (**EAMA RSP**), to pull together this opportunity for students.

"We are encouraging students to be open and curious about the opportunity of a manufacturing career and to start thinking about their options," said David Allard of EWIB, "High school graduates that choose manufacturing can enroll in free job skills training through the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (**MPI**) and many students will have earlier access to training during high school through the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) partner schools."

If you are a manufacturer or school interested in participating in this event, please contact Angela Adams at the Greater Norwich Area Chamber at [angelaadams@NorwichChamber.com](mailto:angelaadams@NorwichChamber.com) or call (860) 887-1647.

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The mission of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated is to connect, support, and engage greater Norwich area businesses and the community enabling them to prosper and grow. Chamber membership is open to any business micro to large, as well as any individual person who may have an interest in belonging. Give us a call today to learn more!