

2018 Western Nebraska Manufacturing Day Agenda, Friday October 5th

9:00 – 9:30	Registration & Introductions
9:30 – 10:00	<p>Guest Speaker: T.R. Raimondo, Chairman, Behlen Manufacturing and a Board Member of National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)</p> <p>T.R. Raimondo was instrumental in starting the <i>Dream It. Do It.</i> initiative nationally. Raimondo observed that too many students were graduating from college with large debt and lacking the skills needed to get a good paying careers in advanced manufacturing and related businesses. This inspired him to start the Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition (NAMC); a business/education government/labor partnership that supports the <i>Dream it. Do It.</i> and STEM Match Initiative.</p> <p><i>Dream It. Do It.</i> aims to enhance the image and identify the education paths to achieve skills needed in advanced manufacturing and related business by highlighting good paying careers to students, parents and educators.</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Guest Speaker: Matt Allmand, Director, Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). Matt's interest in manufacturing started at a young age while working at the Holdrege-based family business, Allmand Bros., Inc., which was a leading designer and manufacturer of high-quality, portable job site equipment. His career progressed through production, purchasing, project management, lean manufacturing and company leadership. Serving as president of the company, Allmand implemented numerous strategies to stabilize the company and increase profits. Allmand Bros. was acquired by Briggs & Stratton in 2014.</p> <p>In May of this year Allmand was named Director of the Nebraska MEP at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The Nebraska MEP is the state's lead resource for manufacturing support and assistance. Leveraging relationships with specialists at the university and a network of external providers, Nebraska MEP offers services to help manufacturers grow, compete and excel in a global marketplace. They tailor unique plans to increase the profitability and competitiveness of manufacturers through a concerted effort to develop high-caliber workers, foster product innovation, cultivate new customers and enter new markets. In 2017, Nebraska MEP interacted with more than 254 small and medium size manufacturing clients resulting in \$2.2 million in new and retained sales, \$2.6 million in cost savings and \$628,701 in new client investments.</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Q&A with Guest Speakers
11:00 – 12:00	Pizza Lunch & Networking with Students, Your Future Workforce
12:00 – 1:00	Lori Marquez, Nebraska Department of Labor, Scottsbluff Funding options, programs, and services for students.
1:00 – 2:00	Local Factory Tour (Optional)