

Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative Innovation Ecosystem Working Group

March 9, 3:00 - 4:00pm
Zoom Conference

Minutes

Attendees:

Joseph Kunze, SI2
Carlo Canetta MITRE Corporation
Sean Killam, (MassMEP)
Israel Soibelman, Lincoln Labs
Leslie Greis, Kinefac
Megan Marzalek, MassTech Collaborative
Robby Bitting, MassChallenge Boston
Vinit Nijhawan, Mass Ventures
Julie Chen, UMass Lowell
Laura Teicher, Forge

Absent:

John Killam, MassMEP
Carolyn Kirk, MassTech Collaborative

Staff:

Helena Fruscio-Altsman, MA EOHED
Christine Nolan MassTech Collaborative
Meghan Abella-Bowen, MassTech Collaborative
Farhad Vazehgoo, MassTech Collaborative
Cassidy Ferguson, MassTech Collaborative

Welcome and Introductions

Christine Nolan welcomed attendees & a roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Farhad Vazehgoo introduced a motion to approve the Nov. 16, 2020 Innovation Working Group minutes, seconded by Vinit Nijhawan, and was approved unanimously.

CAM update

Christine Nolan provided an update on CAM's progress & planning process for FY 2022.

- CAM's focus moving forward will be around broadcasting that MA manufacturing is "open for business": Manufacturing provides good career opportunities, there are significant resources to support and grow manufacturing, and a connected ecosystem advertisement will be the emphasis.
- Christine Nolan displayed a chart providing CAM's overview of the manufacturing ecosystem resources as well as CAM's programs which target 3 audiences: OEMs, SMEs, and workforce.

- CAM’s four core focus areas are represented by the three working groups and a fourth, business opportunity.

Additional conversation was had around attracting companies from outside MA similar to the work out of Mass Life Sciences Center.

It was recommended that we create visual “pathways” for our different audiences that demonstrate the services and resources available to them to help them scale.

ACTION: Christine Nolan to create these visual pathways and work on future case studies.

Christina Nolan presented the proposed Talent ecosystem. Currently a focus on industry input to best understand training gaps and needs. Increasing awareness is a major focus looking at how to create the idea that manufacturing is a good career choice and how to get schools to highlight these opportunities. CAM is evaluating an engagement with a marketing firm on strategy & execution.

Innovation Challenges, Opportunities

- Farhad Vazehgoo presented a list of challenges and opportunities developed from work with each member near the end of 2020.
- The goal is to increase job growth and to create a cohesive manufacturing ecosystem that is strong in both developing and manufacturing products.
- There is a need to better advertise our programs, including M2I2, so that more people are aware of the resource.
- M2I2 project overview:
 - \$70M of the \$93M available has been invested to date in 60 collaborative projects focused on education and discovery centers for prototyping and education purposes.
- M2I2 LEAP labs are focused on discovery and prototyping in photonics. These facilities have instruments and equipment that are capable and expensive. They provide access to equipment that allows startups to become SMEs, which they can then use to expand. M2I2 will help SMEs invest in capital to get to the manufacturing stage that can be addressed with a program grant.
 - **ACTION:** Develop plan to engage industry (startups and SMEs) on using centers for prototyping capabilities. To be considered, a universal portal. Develop a standard contract for using centers.
 - **ACTION:** Christine Nolan to follow-up with Israel Soibelman to discuss new federal government infrastructure investment.

Next steps

The next meeting of the AMC board will be May 13th and the next working group meetings will be the week of July 12th.

CAM will send out a follow-up email & overview.

Materials and Exhibits Used at this meeting:

- Draft Minutes – October 16, 2020 Innovation Ecosystem meeting minutes
- Presentation: Innovation Ecosystem Working Group, March 9, 2021