

**Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs**  
*February 2016 Constituent Newsletter*

**TGDC to meet February 8-9, 2016**

Created under the Help America Vote Act, the [Technical Guidelines Development Committee](#) (TGDC) is an advisory committee to the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#). The Committee, chaired by the NIST Director, provides recommendations on voluntary standards and guidelines related to voting equipment and technologies. The February 2016 meeting will be held at the [U.S. Access Board](#) in Washington DC. The meeting proceedings will be webcast. Additional information on the meeting including the agenda, webcast link and registration information is posted online [here](#).

**NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT) to meet February 3-4, 2016**

Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the [VCAT](#) reviews and makes recommendations regarding general policy for [NIST](#), its organization, its budget, and its programs, within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. A link to the February meeting agenda is [here](#). The meeting presentation slides will also be posted at the site. The next scheduled meeting for the VCAT is June 7-8, 2016.

**MEP Opens Competition to Fund Manufacturing Centers in 12 States and Puerto Rico**

The NIST [Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#) (MEP) has opened a competition to award new cooperative funding agreements for its MEP centers in 12 states and Puerto Rico. The competition continues a multiyear effort to update the program's funding structure to better match manufacturing industry needs with resources in MEP's nationwide network. The MEP centers help small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. The current competition will fund awards for centers in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Utah and Vermont. MEP anticipates awarding a total of nearly \$39 million for up to 13 centers in these locations.

U.S.-based nonprofit institutions or organizations, including existing MEP centers, are eligible to participate in the competition. The cooperative agreements have a five-year period of performance with the opportunity to receive another five years of funding based on successful performance and availability of funds. MEP will host a webinar for interested parties approximately 15-30 business days from the release of the Federal Funding Opportunity. Full details on the competition and award process can be found on the [MEP competition website](#).

**FY 2017 Administration Budget Proposal Overview & NNMI Informational Webinar**

The NIST Director's Office will host a constituent webinar on February 26, 2016 at 1 pm EST. Dr. Jason Boehm, Director of the the NIST Program Coordination Office will overview the Administration's FY 2017 budget proposal for NIST. Mr. Michael Molnar, Director of NIST's Advanced Manufacturing Office will review the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) Institute Awards Competition. Registration for the one hour webinar is available online [here](#).

