

MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING



Living the change we seek at MEP!

Carroll Thomas, MEP Director

Challenges and Opportunities: 2014 Employee Viewpoint Survey Results



- Employees are protected from health and safety hazards on the job (97%)
- When needed I am willing to put in the extra effort to get a job done (95.2%)
- Overall quality of work done by your work group (91.7%)



- In my work unit, steps are taken to deal with a poor performer who cannot or will not improve (40%)
- In my organization, leaders generate high levels of motivation and commitment in the workforce (38.1%)
- In my work unit, differences in performance are recognized in a meaningful way (33.4%)



Challenges and Opportunities: 2015 Employee Viewpoint Survey Results



- Employees are protected from health and safety hazards on the job (96.6%)
- When needed I am willing to put in the extra effort to get a job done (96.5%)
- I am constantly looking for ways to do my job better (92.6%)



- In my work unit, steps are taken to deal with a poor performer who cannot or will not improve (55.5%)
- Promotions in my work unit are based on merit (54.6%)
- Arbitrary action, personal favoritism and coercion for partisan political purposes are not tolerated (53.2%)



Challenges and Opportunities: Internal Context

What keeps staff engaged

Commitment to the program mission and NIST MEP

Proud to work at NIST and with **MEP Center colleagues**

What keeps staff from being engaged

Period of Disruption, Transition in Leadership

 Changed long standing Director and Deputy Interim Acting Director for ~2 years

Internal Management Process Implications

Inspector General Report/GAO Audit Competition of MEP centers/change in funding

Understaffed, Stretched Workforce 16% Vacancies No Deputy Director No Executive Officer

Culture Issues

Fragmented

Distrust Uncertainty

Staff-management unrest



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Actions: Employee Suggestion Box



GOAL: To encourage engagement, communication, transparency, and innovation

• Channel to express and empower ideas



CREATED an Employee Suggestion box and process to consider, track, and share/communicate ideas

- 24 suggestions since June
- Suggestions varied from organizational change (performance plans, strategic plan, re-organization, core values, etc.) to events and socials, to meetings, office space, and system process.



Actions: New Leadership, New Vision

- Brought on as Director of MEP in mid-April
 - Took actions to address some of the immediate issues
 - Approved the selection of an outside trainer, Larry Danner, for culture transformation





Actions: Engaging of The Clearing and Their Work



Obtained candid employee feedback and recommendations via individual interviews and focus groups; aired submerged issues and laid groundwork for positive relations



Created collaborative framework and defined a desired future culture that spelled out how we will do our work and conduct ourselves



Identified 3 top-level organizational priorities to address by the end of January







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Actions: Implementation Plan



Developing an implementation plan focusing on:

- 1. A series of 90 day high impact projects that can be addressed immediately
- 2. Longer-term, more complex issues that require extended resolution
- 3. Organization-wide cultural and behavioral training embedded in the work
- 4. Leadership training and coaching
- 5. Organizational restructuring



Next Steps





Future State

LIVING THE CHANGE WE SEEK AT MEP

WE WILL WORK AND TREAT EACH OTHER WITH ...

RESPECT EACH OTHER TIMELINESS INTEGRITY VALUE ADDED ACCEPTANCE DIFFERENCES DEADLINES INTEGRITY VALUE ADDED ACCEPTANCE CLEAR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMATIC INTERNAL COMMUNICATION WILLINGNESS TO APOLOGIZE PROVIDING AND RECEIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK PROACTIVE AND DIRECT FEEDBACK ACTIVE LISTENING PURPOSE RESPONSIVENESS TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOCUS ON THE MISSION PASSION EMPOWERMENT POSITIVE THINKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOW THROUGH WILLINGNESS TO DELEGATE TRANSPARENCY HONESTY OUR FULL POSITIVE THINKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOW THROUGH WILLINGNESS TO DELEGATE TRANSPARENCY HONESTY OUR FULL POSITIVE THINKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOW THROUGH WILLINGNESS TO DELEGATE TRANSPARENCY HONESTY OUR FULL POSITIVE THINKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOW THROUGH WILLINGNESS TO DELEGATE TRANSPARENCY HONESTY

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