

# MEP Advisory Board

February 23, 2021  
FACA Board Meeting

This is a simplified version of the presentation for website purposes.  
A full version may be requested by emailing [Cheryl.Gendron@nist.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Gendron@nist.gov)



# FACA and the Advisory Board

- The MEP Advisory Board is authorized under Section 3003(d) of the America COMPETES Act (Pub. L. 110–69), as amended by the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, Public Law 114–329 sec. 501 (2017), and codified at 15 U.S.C. 278k(m), in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.

# Welcome

- **Matthew Newman**, MEP Advisory Board, Chair

# MAB Meeting Details

- **Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021**
- Board Meeting Opening/Logistics
- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Remarks
- Welcome from NIST Leadership
- Board and Audience Introductions
- NIST MEP Senior Management Update
- Presentation: MEP: 1988 to Now – Three Meaningful Legislative Reforms
- Presentation: Strategic Planning Foundation
- Working Group Update: MEP National Network™ Strategic Plan 2023-2028
- Working Group Update: Supply Chain Development
- Working Group Update: Executive Committee

# Welcome and Introductions

- **James K. Olthoff**, Performing the duties of the NIST Director
- **Mojdeh Bahar**, NIST, Associate Director, Innovation and Industry Services
- **Rob Ivester**, Acting Director, NIST MEP

# Welcome New MEP Advisory Board Member

**Ray Aguerrevere**, Custom Metal Designs, Inc.

# NIST MEP Senior Management Update

1. MEP Program Budget Outlook / Spend Plan
2. MEP National Network Update
3. Progress Update: MEP National Network Strategic Plan 2017-2022
4. NIST MEP Operational Update

# MEP Program Budget Outlook (as of 2/23/2021)

## FY 2021

### Appropriation Status

#### Base funding: \$150 million

- **\$4 million** increase over FY 2020.
- Center funding not subject to cost share requirements; elective for Centers receiving state funds conditioned on federal cost share requirement

## FY 2022

### Appropriation Status

President's budget request and congressional appropriation bills forthcoming.



# NIST MEP FY 2021 Projected Spend Plan

<b><u>Available Funding:</u></b>	<b>\$ Millions</b>
Full Year Appropriation	150.0
Carryover from FY 2020	7.3
Funding from Other Agencies	0.0
<b>Total Available Funding</b>	<b>157.3</b>

<b><u>Planned Expenditures:</u></b>	
Center Renewals	126.6
Strategic Competitions	4.3
Contracts	4.7
NIST MEP Labor	11.5
<u>NIST and Program Overhead</u>	<u>10.2</u>
<b>Total Planned Expenditures</b>	<b>157.3</b>

# ... and on the Legislative Front

- **Omnibus Funding Bill for FY2021 Signed into Law, December 27, 2020**
  - Funding NIST MEP through FY 2021, \$150 million.
  - The bill contains over 2,000 pages containing the first comprehensive energy overhaul in new energy policy in over a dozen years which is highly relevant to the Network. More will be revealed.
- **The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) became law January 1, 2021**
  - NIST Director to present congress with feasibility study on supply chain database within six months of enactment (July 1, 2021).
  - The DOD Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) is now the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).
  - Directs the Manufacturing USA Institutes to contract with MEP Centers to provide technical and workforce assistance for small and medium-sized manufactures as appropriate.

# CARES Act Update

## Centers reporting progress quarterly

- Reporting for 2020 Q4 (Dec. 30 end)

Manufacturers Contacted	202,874
Client Projects Completed	12,886
Supplier Searches	8,799
Supplier Matches	824
Multi-Center Engagements	661

# Competitive Award Funding Update

(Rolling) Competitive Award Program (CAP): Awards Issued in 2020

<b>NY</b>	<b>Manufacturing Readiness for Contract Manufacturers</b>	<b>OH</b>	<b>Digital Maturity for SMMs</b>
<b>TN</b>	Establish a MEPNN Advanced Technology Team	<b>GA</b>	CMMC Training Course Development and Delivery
<b>VA</b>	MEP Capabilities Expansion-MedMMAP Program Expansion	<b>OR</b>	I 4.0 Regional Development and Delivery
<b>MO</b>	America Works: Coordinating MEPNN Workforce Development Programs	<b>MI</b>	Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program
<b>CT</b>	Manufacturing Skills for Connecticut	<b>CA</b>	Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program
<b>FL</b>	Industry Integration within a Baldrige Framework	<b>VA</b>	Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program

## Released new CAP NOFO Dec. 28, 2020

- Replace initial CAP NOFO
- Funding limits:
  - Up to \$500,000 for single state
  - Up to \$2,000,000 for multi state

## Revised Themes:

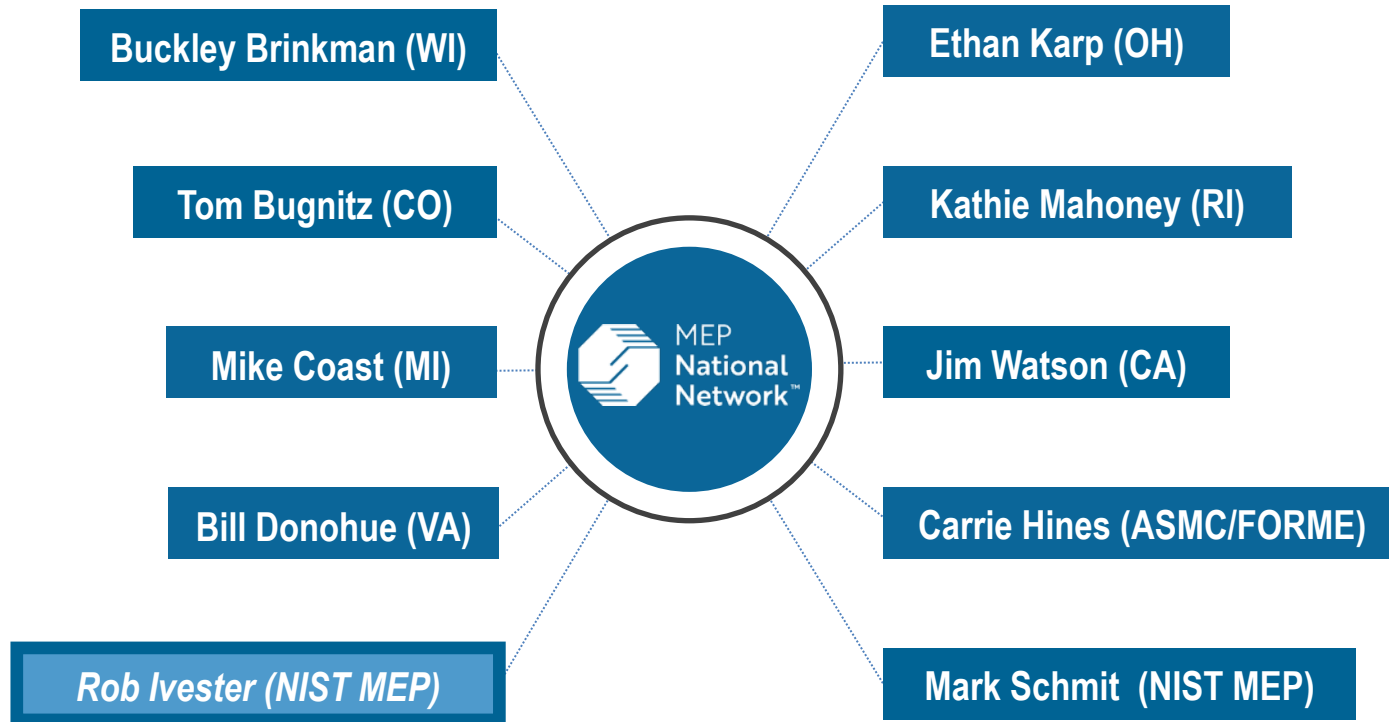
- Industry/Manufacturing 4.0
- Manufacturing Workforce Services to include Employee Recruitment, Retention and Employee Development
- Supply Chain Management and Resiliency
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application

# State Partnership Support Program – NOFO Released

The purpose of the MEP State Partnership Support Program is to **generate strategies, market intelligence and analytical resources** to support the efforts of MEP Centers, NIST MEP and the nation's manufacturers to **leverage all applicable resources available at the regional, state and local levels.**

- Alignment of policy goals - state and national.
- Brings to manufacturers capabilities that they cannot access alone, offering a wide range of options to address challenges and offer practical solutions.
- Develop and enhance effective collaborative relationships with states and other stakeholders.

# MEP National Network Center Leadership Team (CLT)



*Several additions to the team are being made in 2021; up to four new Center Directors are in process of being added.*

# MEP National Network Center Leadership Team (CLT)

## Regional Communications Nodes Continue

### Background

Need to create more **efficient** and **effective ways of connecting** Centers around the country to build relationships, provide support, exchange ideas and information, catalyze learning and improve communications. Better connections form the basis for a faster and more flexible National Network.

### Objectives

- Establish one-to-one connections between Center Directors and a Center Director on the National Network CLT.
- CLT members host 6 Regional Nodes to facilitate regular group conversations and create learning opportunities.
- Build closer and deeper relationships between and among Centers.

# MEP National Network Center Leadership Team (CLT)

- Information about CLT priorities, business issues and strategy are quickly disseminated throughout the MEP National Network.
- Recent discussion at CLT Regional Nodes calls include Center's business updates, expansion of MEP, diversity and inclusion and President Biden's Executive Order.
- The structure improves access directly to CLT members and ensures that everyone in the National Network has a voice.
- Regional Nodes meeting on a regular schedule, one or two times per month.



# NIST MEP: National Network Support

## Notable Center Service Areas

### Cybersecurity

- Continued development of Center roles.
  - Assisting defense contractors with DFARS, CMMC.
  - Cyber integration into Industry 4.0 projects and manufacturer resilience.
- All 51 Centers participating in cybersecurity working group.

### Advanced Manufacturing Technology/Industry 4.0

- Increased small manufacturer interest in Industry 4.0 resulting from pandemic and remote/virtual ops, workplace safety.
- Center service development assisted by NIST MEP special project awards and Industry 4.0 working group participation from most MEP Centers.

# NIST MEP: National Network Support

## Notable Center Service Areas

### **MATTR**

- Continuing to operationalize at Centers (mainly via working group) and increase awareness, participation of NIST Labs – focus on MATTR value for manufacturers, Centers, NIST.
- Two CRADAs operating involving NIST Labs, MEP Center clients and NIST MEP.

### **Food Industry Services/Food Safety**

- Continued strong national FDA partnership focused on food safety.
- All 51 Centers participating in Food Working Group.

# NIST MEP: National Network Support

## Notable Center Service Areas

### Supplier Scouting

- Significant national, state activity – relating to pandemic and general supply chain needs.
- Connected to 'Made in America' Executive Order #14005 increasing national interest and participation.
- New working group formed in February 2021.

THE WHITE HOUSE



#### Executive Order on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers

“...Sec. 7. Supplier Scouting. To the extent appropriate and consistent with applicable law, agencies shall partner with the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), discussed in the **Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act (title V of Public Law 114-329)**, to conduct supplier scouting in order to **identify American companies, including small- and medium-sized companies, that are able to produce goods, products, and materials in the United States that meet Federal procurement needs...**”

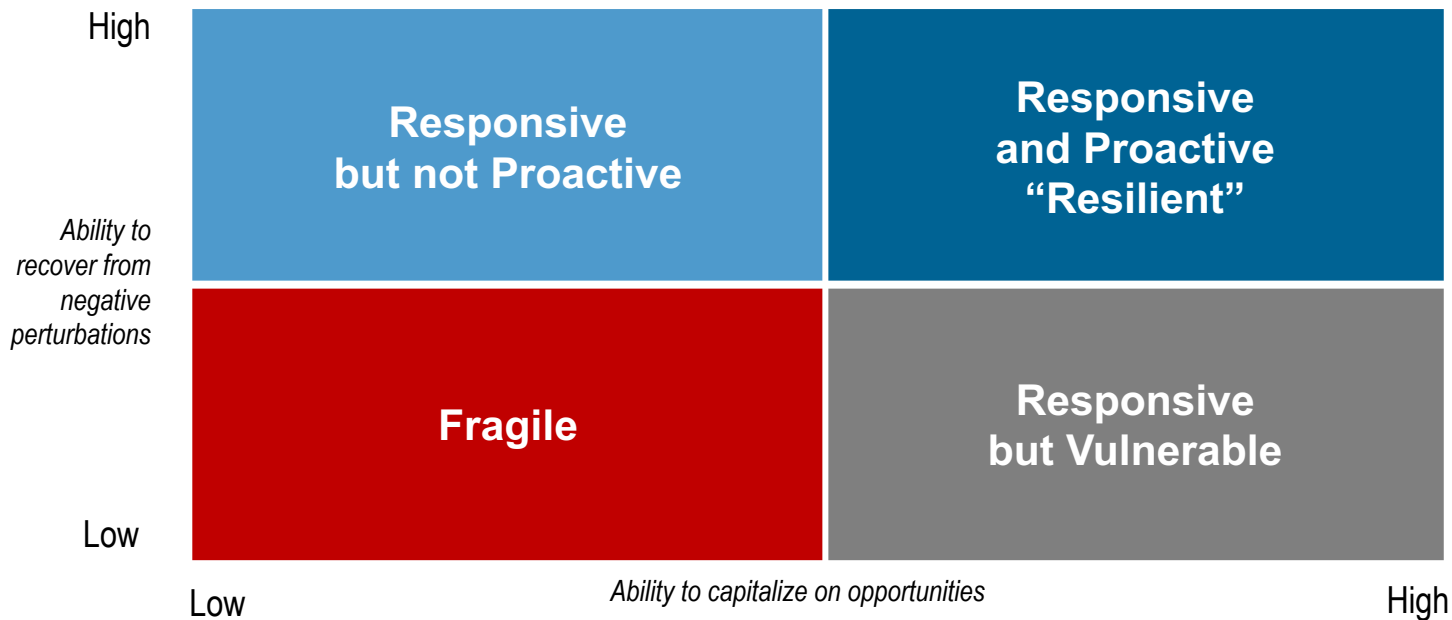
Harvard  
Business  
Review

Supply Chain | **One Way to Build More Resilient Medical Supply Chains in the U.S.**

“...By identifying and forming relationships now and adding firms to approved vendor lists, hospitals and health care facilities can pivot quickly during emergencies. For example, [Maryland Made to Save Lives](#) is a database that lists manufacturers in the state by area of expertise, allowing health care facilities to find alternate suppliers. **Manufacturing Extension Partnership Programs, which run in every state, can similarly help match supply and potential demand...**”

# NIST MEP: National Network Support

## Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience



**Resilient** = Responsive and Proactive

# NIST MEP: National Network Support

## Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience

- **Focus on, and MEPNN activities in, MEP Manufacturer Resilience assistance is growing**
  - NIST MEP, MEP Centers collaboratively developing Manufacturer Resilience Framework (suite of tools, assessments, services) for Centers to offer SMMs.
  - Includes systems perspective applying to:
    - Supply chain inputs, in-factory processes, customer and market outputs
- MEP Resilience assistance to U.S. manufacturers includes:
  - Pandemic response, incl. pivoting to new production, new customers/markets
  - Supplier Scouting - identify new suppliers, customers, markets
  - Disaster recovery and continuity of operations (COOP)
  - Business assessments/situational awareness
  - Supply chain visibility and sourcing strategies
  - Advanced Manufacturing Technology awareness and integration
  - Production processes and strategies
  - Cybersecurity and risk management

# NIST MEP: National Network Support Center

## Reviews: 2021

### Panel Reviews

#### **Third and eighth-year.**

- Currently conducting two eighth-year reviews (AZ/MD).
- August 2021 – one eight-year review (NE).

### Secretarial Reviews

#### **During fifth-year (determination for second five-year cooperative agreement).**

- Round 3 and 4 Centers (total of 24 Centers) will have their year 5 Annual/Secretarial Reviews – Spring/Fall 2021.

### Annual Reviews

**48 Centers (includes 24 going through a YR5/Secretarial Review).**

# NIST MEP and MEP Centers: National Network Collaboration

**NIST MEP held 11 roundtable sessions with manufacturing leaders from late July - early October 2020.**

- 50 manufacturers, 27 states represented, and diverse industries.
- Common themes:
  - **Opportunities:** Adapting new leadership styles, increasing communication with staff and building networks of C-suite colleagues, adopting more flexible production cycles (evenings, fewer days, etc.), and working with local MEP Center.
  - **Challenges:** Recruiting, retaining and training staff, increased cost and energy of keeping staff safe, lack of childcare, and importance of innovation and thinking beyond the pandemic.
  - **Overall Message: Manufacturers faced the greatest challenges in the beginning of the pandemic and quickly adapted to keep their employees safe, continue operations and build better relationships with suppliers and networks.**

Preliminary recommendations from panelists include continue traditional MEP services, serve as a clearing house for best practices, provide connections for growth, anticipate future needs and assist in deploying new technologies.

# NIST MEP and MEP Centers: National Network Collaboration

- **Deliverables from the Roundtables:**
  - Blogs detailing themes and highlights from each session:
    - NIST MEP Website: <https://www.nist.gov/blogs/manufacturing-innovation-blog>
    - Majority are published; last few over the coming weeks
  - Review recordings of each event
    - MEP Connect: <https://tinyurl.com/MEPmfgConvo2020>
  - Report will inform implementation plan for recommendations.
    - Slated for March 2021



# Survey Results: MEP FY20 Impacts

**105,748** **JOBS** Created or Retained

**\$13.0**  
**BILLION**  
in New and  
Retained Sales



**\$4.9**  
**BILLION**

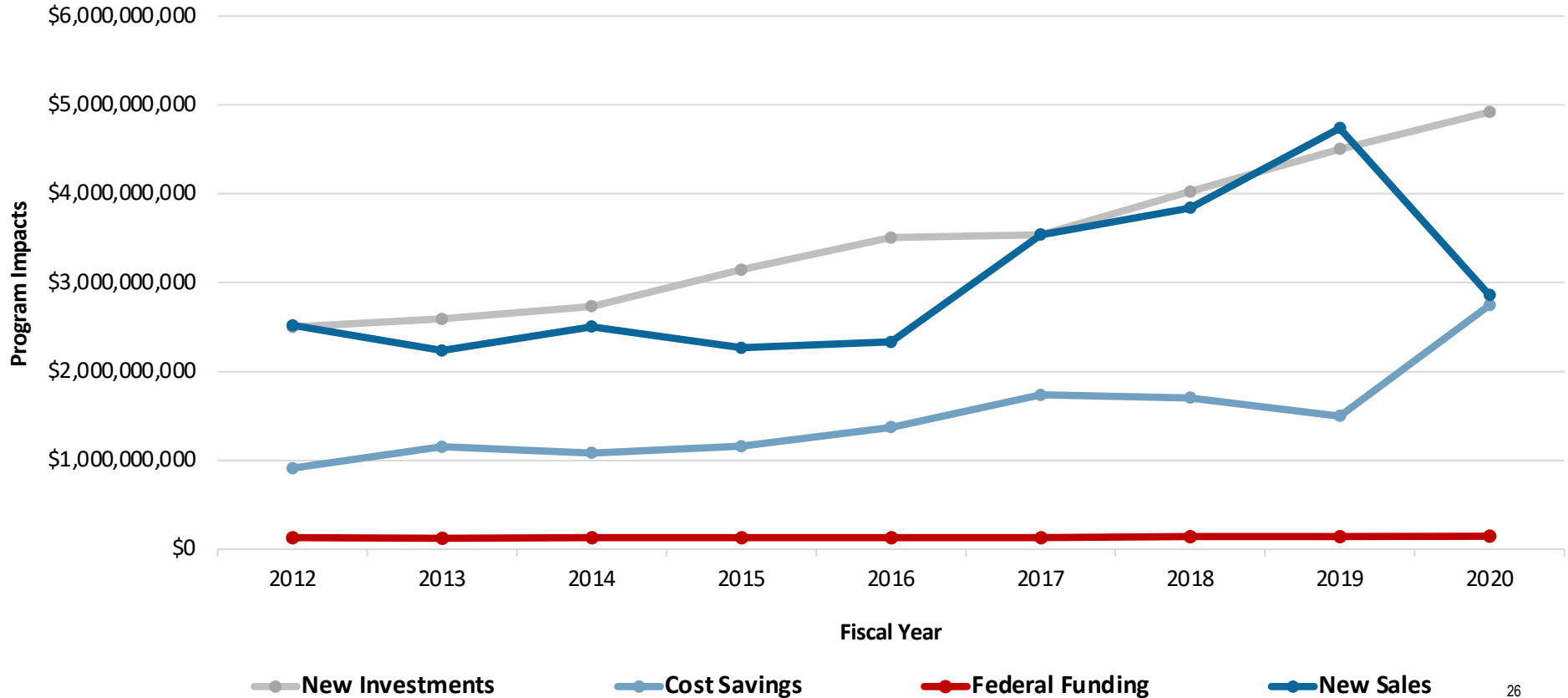


in Total Investment in  
U.S. Manufacturing

**\$2.7**  
**BILLION**  
in Cost  
Savings



# Survey Results: MEP Impacts Over Time



# External Analysis: Broader MEP Economic Impacts

In February 2021, *Summit Consulting* and the *W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research* published a study that found the MEP program generated a **substantial return on investment** of nearly **13.6:1** for the **\$146 million** invested in FY 2020 by the federal government.



# Progress Update: MEPNN Strategic Plan 2017-2022

**Empower  
Manufacturers**

**Champion  
Manufacturers**

**Leverage  
Partnerships**

**Transform  
the Network**

**1. Consensus Within Integrated National Network**

Reach Network consensus on definition of Project and CME (client manufacturing establishment) interaction.

**2. Center and Program Office Operational Excellence**

Operationally improve reporting via measurement of on-time and accurate reporting.

**3. Increased Visibility**

Amplify and measure Network brand awareness by at least 10%.

**4. Increase Projects and New Clients**

Increase reported projects by 10% and reported new clients by 5%.

**18 Month  
Measures of  
Success**

**9/2019-3/2021**

**Progress to Date**

# 18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

## Measure 1: Consensus Within Integrated National Network

### Define:

- Client/project
- Client manufacturing establishment interaction
- Working Group of Center Directors established

*Historic program definitions of terms have been identified and catalogued. Center Director Working Group is identified and will reconvene in the summer of 2021.*

## Measure 2: Center and Program Office Operational Excellence

### Four Elements Measured:

- Progress plan
- Progress data
- Success story
- Survey confirmation

### Baseline (Q2 2019):

- 40 Centers reported on time with the first three elements.
- 24 Centers reported on time across all four elements.

### Progress to Date (Q4 2020):

- 43 Centers reported on time with first three elements. Positive increase of **8%**.
- 31 Centers reported on time across all four elements. Positive increase of **29%**.

# 18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

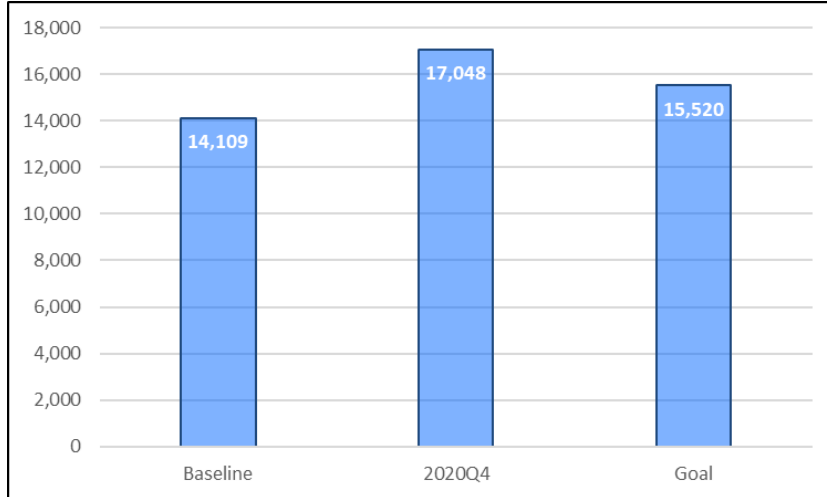
**Measure 3: Increased Visibility by Amplifying Network Brand Awareness by at Least 10%.**

Brand Measure	Baseline	Progress To Date*	Goal	Change
#MEPNationalNetwork Hashtag Occurrences	334	524	367	+57%
Brand Mentions	125	188	138	+50%
Manufacturing Innovation Blog Subscribers	24,920	36,480	27,412	+46%
Backlinks	104	141	114	+36%
Social Media Followers	16,240	17,702	17,864	+9%

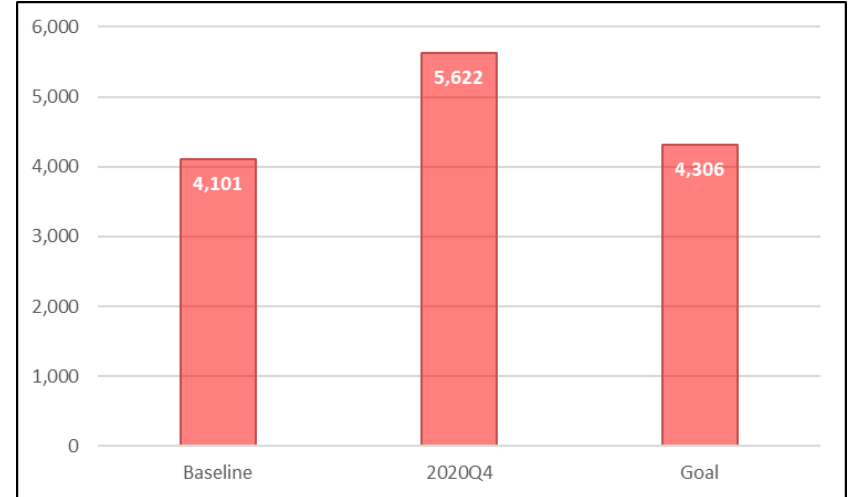
\*Progress to date for Oct. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020.

# 18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

**Goal: Increase Projects by 10%**  
**Outcome: Increase of 21%**



**Goal: Increase New Clients by 5%**  
**Outcome: Increase of 37%**



## Measure 4: Increase Projects and New Clients

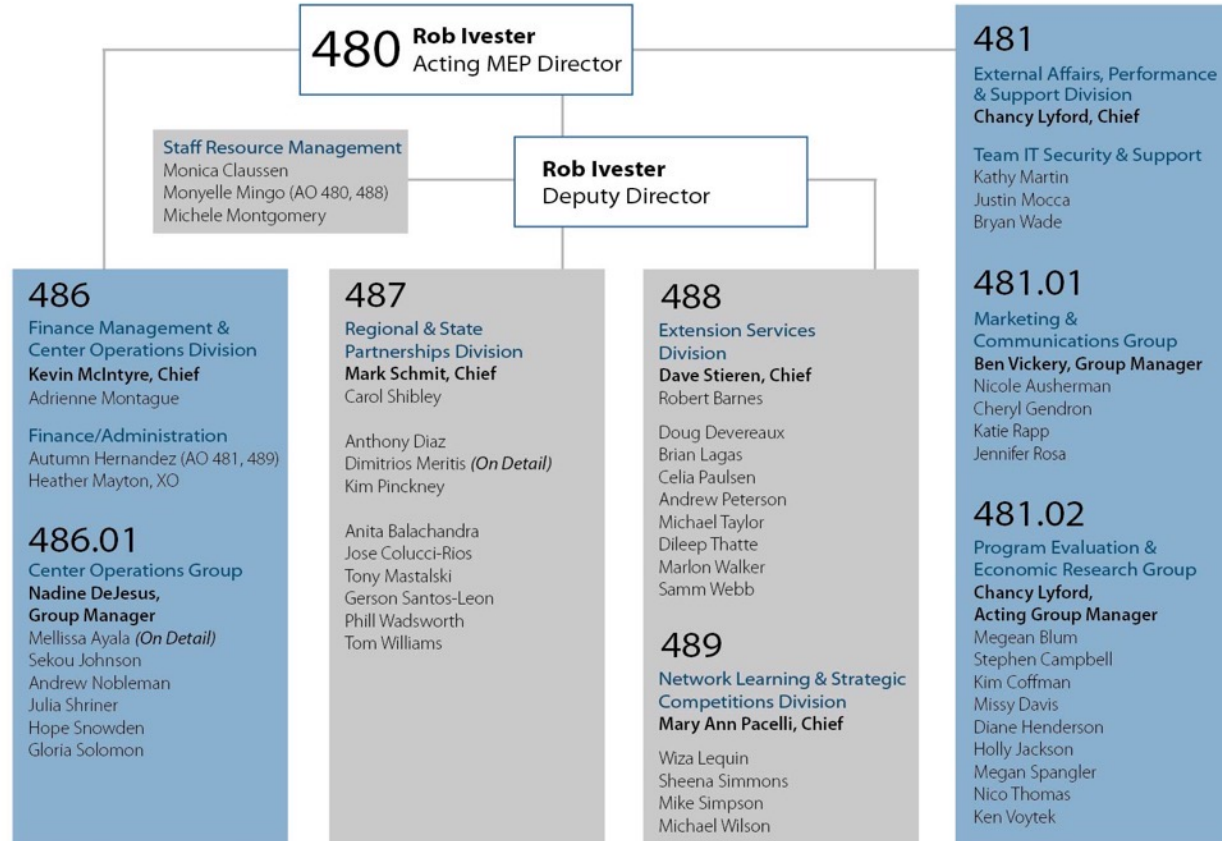


NIST MEP  
Operational Update

# NIST Campus Locations Status

- All NIST staff including NIST MEP staff were on ***mandatory telework*** from **mid-March** until **early July**, and now on ***maximum telework***.
- NIST phased re-opening emphasizes **employee safety** and focuses on laboratory staff having access to labs.
- NIST staff remain on *maximum* telework; **90% of all staff** for an extended period returning in later phases.
- NIST MEP Move Back In Committee has met **monthly** and 301 office **construction has nearly concluded**.

# NIST MEP Org Chart FY21



# MEP Advisory Board Featured Presentation

## **MEP: 1988 to Now – Three Meaningful Legislative Reforms**

**Chancy Lyford**

NIST MEP

Division Chief for External Affairs, Performance & Support

# MEP Advisory Board Featured Presentation

## Strategic Planning Foundation

**Rob Ivester**

NIST MEP  
Acting Director

**Lisë Stewart**

Eisner Ampner  
Principal-in-Charge,  
Center for Family Business Excellence

# Strategic Planning Starts Here

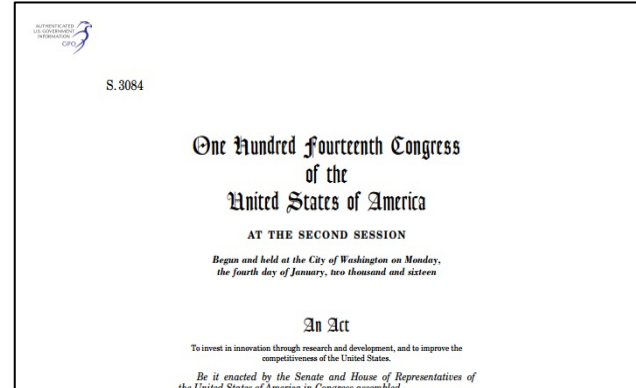
## **How it all begins:**

- Funding in the federal system
- The MEP program within this system
- Expanding our sphere of influence
- Strategic Plan: the steps towards this expansion to achieve overall vision

# Strategic Planning Starts Here

## Funding in the Federal System:

- Amends: MEP Program Authorization
  - ‘American Innovation and Competitiveness Act’, 2017
  - Resources:
    - Full Act: <http://tinyurl.com/2017MEPStatute>
      - Title V, Manufacturing
        - » P. 55
    - The full MEP Authorization, as amended
      - <https://tinyurl.com/MEPstatuteLanguage>



**TITLE V—MANUFACTURING**

SEC. 501. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

“(2) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

“(3) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means a manufacturing extension center that—

“(A) is created under subsection (b); and

“(B) is affiliated with an eligible entity that applies for and is awarded financial support under subsection (e).

“(4) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘community college’ means an institution of higher education (as defined under section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree that is predominately awarded to students is an associate’s degree.

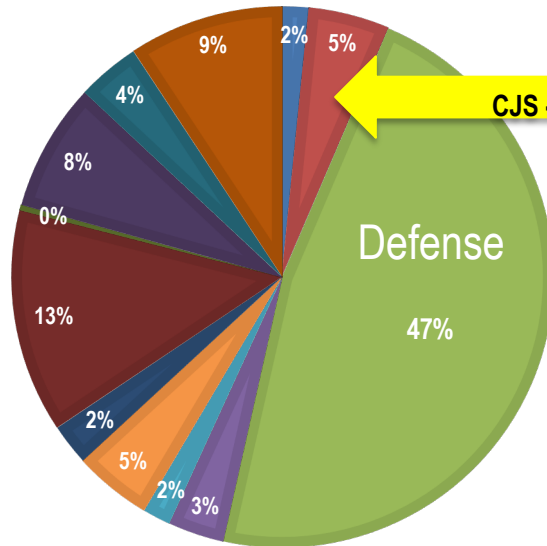
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# Growing the MEP Program

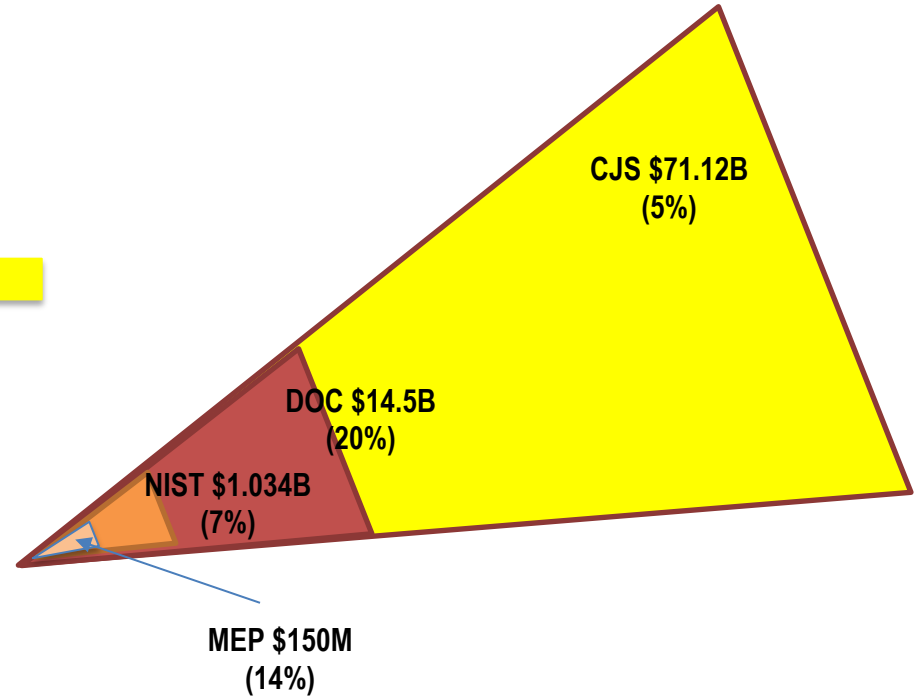
**Total Appropriated Funds: \$1.4 Trillion**

## FY21 FUNDING

- Division A
- Division B
- Division C
- Division D
- Division E
- Division F
- Division G
- Division H
- Division I
- Division J
- Division K
- Division L



**CJS - 5%**





# MEP Priorities

1. Improve security/resiliency of domestic supply chain for critical products
2. Actualize/realize vision of the MEP National Network
3. MEP is recognized as the go-to program for manufacturing

# 4 PILLARS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

## EMPOWER MANUFACTURERS

Enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturers, with particular focus on small and medium-sized companies.



## CHAMPION MANUFACTURERS

Serve as a voice to and a voice for manufacturing and manufacturers in engaging policy makers, stakeholders, and clients.



## LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

Support national, state, and regional manufacturing, eco-systems and partnerships.



## TRANSFORM THE NETWORK

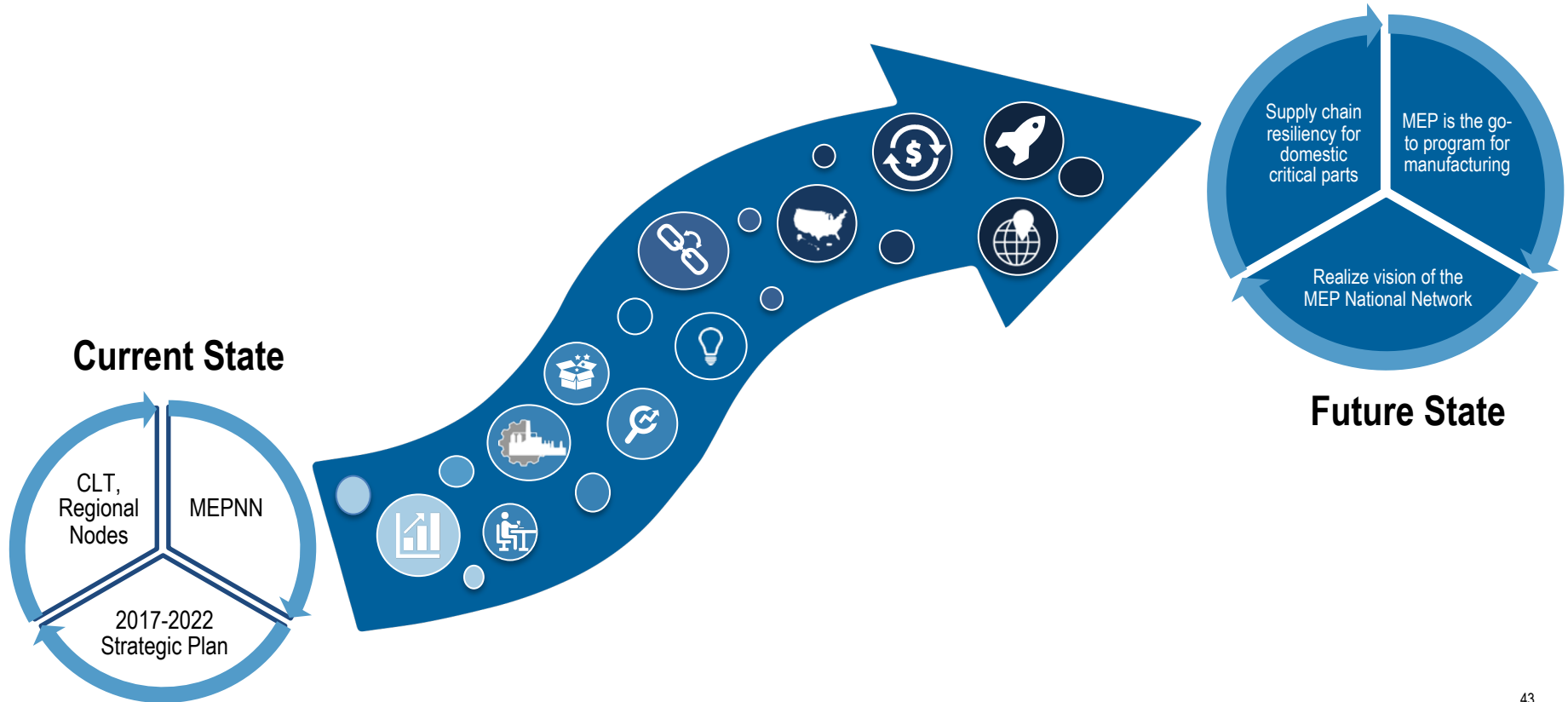
Develop MEP's capabilities as a learning organization and high performance system.



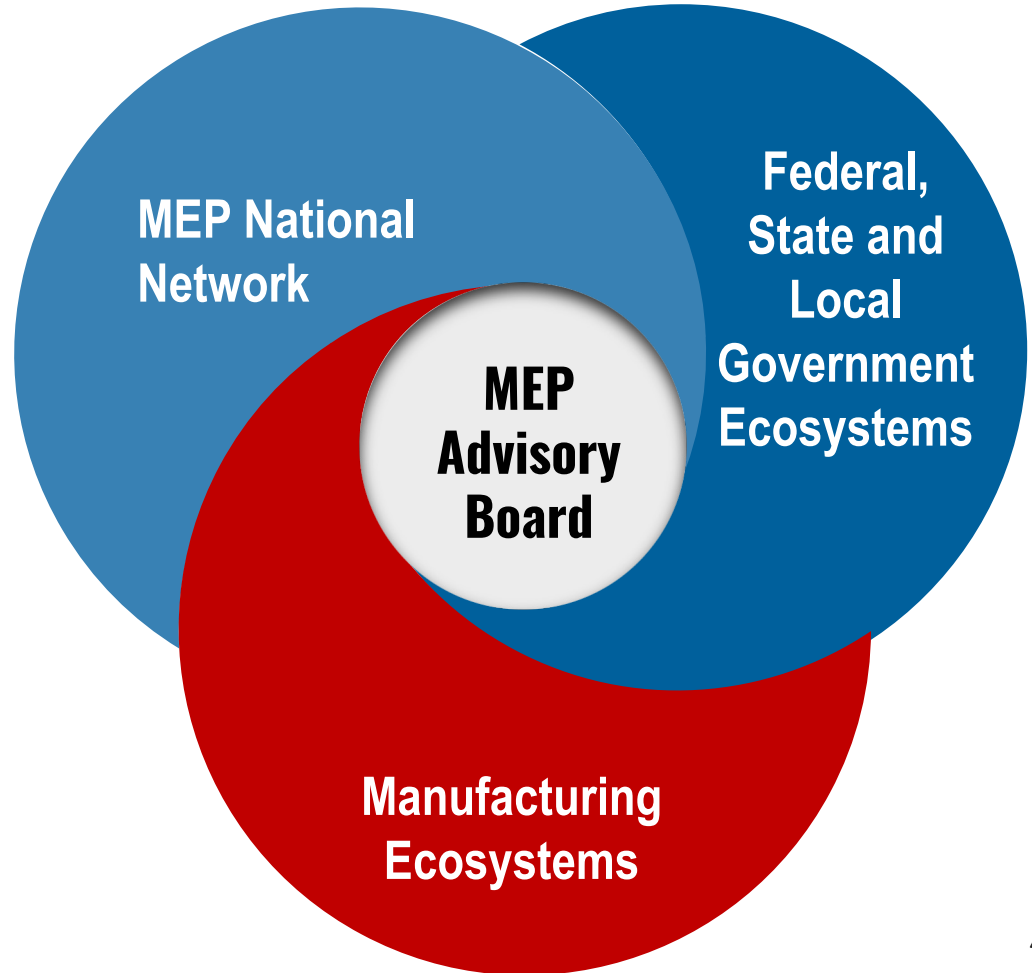
## MEP Priority Mapping

- Improve security/resiliency of domestic supply chain for critical products
- Actualize/realize vision of the MEP National Network
- MEP is recognized as the go-to program for manufacturing

# Strategic Planning the Road Map to the Future

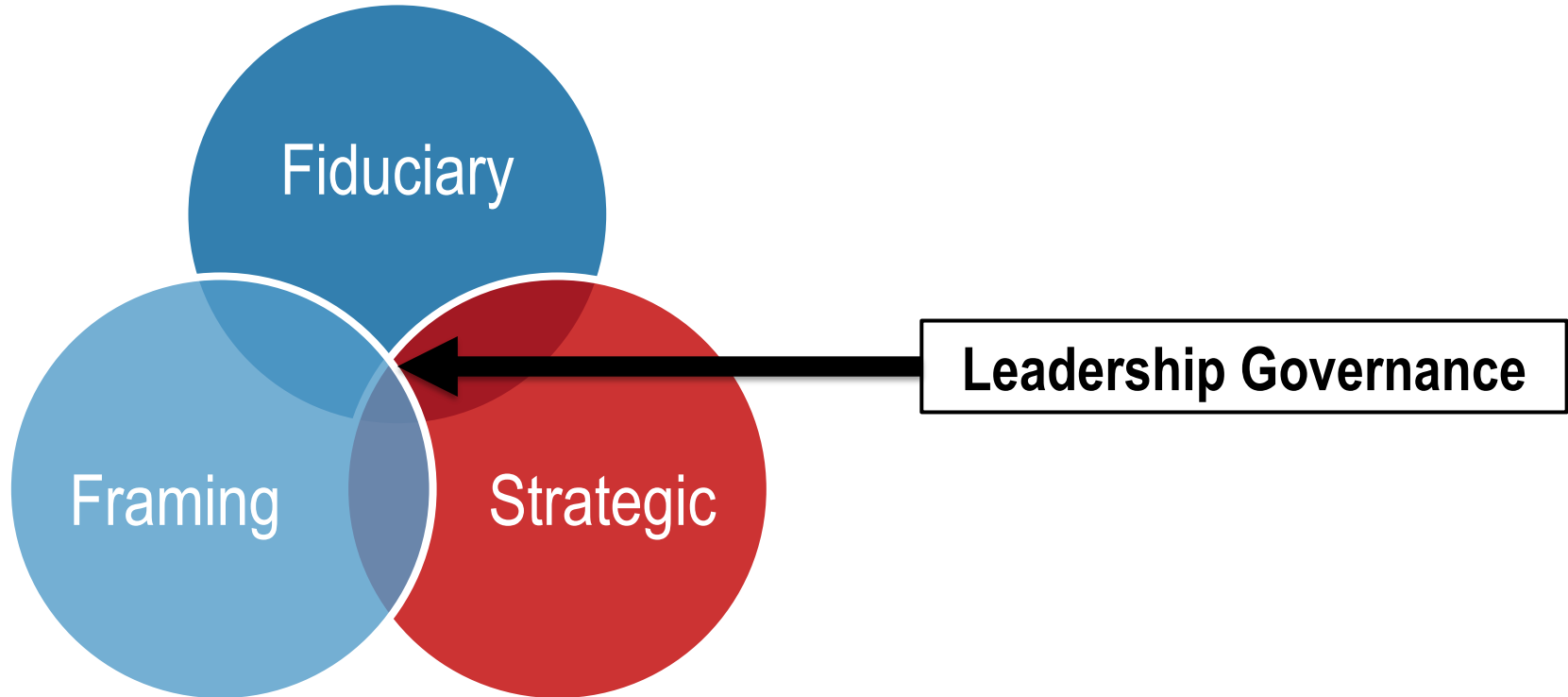


# MAB Advisory Board: Nexus



# The MEP Advisory Board – Leadership Governance

# 3 Key Elements of Leadership Governance



# Creating a foundation to frame truly inspirational thinking...

- Know
  - This is complex, ambiguous
  - Current assumptions
  - Level of risk
  - The current paradigm
- Explore
  - What frame are you using to 'see' the organization:
    - **Structural**: policies, procedures, rules and regs.
    - **Human Capital**: people, fit, fulfillment, skills, professional dev.
    - **Political**: partners, constituents, bargaining, advocacy, allocation of resources.
    - **Symbolic**: values, culture, beliefs, stories, history, rituals.

“Generative thinking produces a sense of what knowledge, information and data *mean*.”

- Governance as Leadership p. 84

# What additional 'frames' should we consider?

- Political
- ?



# Changing our approach to strategy development...

Boards need to pay attention to the big picture – the complete panorama of possibilities. This includes understanding target markets, the value proposition, desired impacts and operating structures.

## Questions might include:

1. Do we have the **right business model**?
2. Do we provide the **right services**?
3. Are we serving the **right people**?
4. What is the **future** of manufacturing?
5. Who is our **competition**?
6. Why should we be **funded**?
7. Who should be our **partners**?

# Things to think about...

- How will we know we are successful?
- How will we know when to pivot?
- What are the global/national cues to monitor?
- Who/what are our greatest leverage points?
- How can we hold ourselves accountable?

# MEP Advisory Board Working Group Updates

# MEPNN Strategic Plan Working Group 2023-2028

- Committee members

- Board leadership

**Kathay Rennels**

- Board members

**Don Bockoven, Kevin Heller, Mary Isbister,**

**Willie May, Matt Newman, Jim Wright**

- Ex-officio support

**Bernadine Hawes** (Immediate Past-Chair)

- NIST MEP support

**Rob Ivester, Wiza Lequin, Cheryl Gendron**

- Deliverable

- To provide long-term, program direction, guidance and perspectives for the MEP National Network Strategic Plan for 2023-2028. The WG will consider feedback from Centers, stakeholders, partners, management and staff as the plan is developed.

# Discussion: Strategic Planning the Discovery Phase

- Identifying holes and challenges
  - How and what?
  - i.e. new paradigms arise (*pandemic, etc.*)
- Building a new future
  - Economic productivity/workforce
  - Globally competitive/manufacturing
- Creating a foundation to frame truly inspirational thinking
  - Exploring an expansion of services
  - ESG, what other frames
- Sharing with the Network
  - Cohesive vision
  - Defined roles and responsibilities
  - MEPNN plan is the foundation the Centers will be building on

**NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEPNN focus areas, approaches, challenges.**

# Supply Chain Development Working Group

- **Members**

- Board leadership
  - **Don Bockoven**
- Board members
  - **Ray Aguerrevere, LaDon Byars, Mary Isbister, Matt Newman**
- NIST MEP support
  - **Rob Ivester, Dave Stieren, Mark Schmit**

- **Deliverable**

- Guidance and perspectives on the MEP National Network support and development of manufacturing supply chains with an emphasis on defense suppliers regarding Defense Industrial Base gaps; and expertise on who should be brought into the discussion to provide insight on defense supplier gaps.

# Discussion Topics for the Board

**The MEP National Network supports DOD supply chains in many areas, highlighted by:**

- Cybersecurity awareness and assistance
- Many diverse aspects of supply chain development

**NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEP National Network focus areas, approaches, challenges – and their alignment with the MEP Strategic Plan.**

# 2021 is Different Than 2020

## Some National-Level Influences on MEP Program

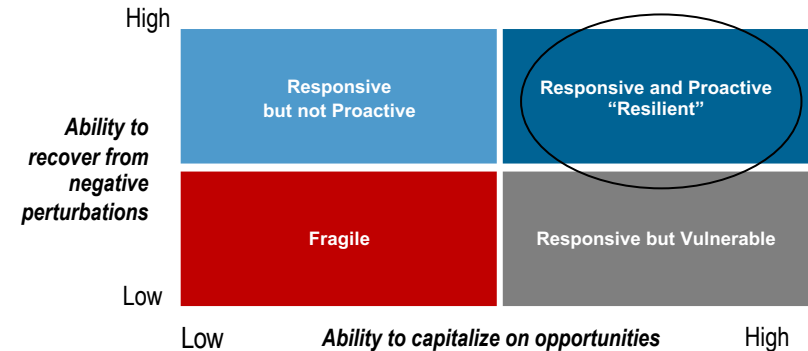
- U.S. manufacturing and supply chains are prominent in ongoing policy discussions and planning.
- MEP is being recognized as important program that contributes to national and economic security and national health.
  - “Supply chain” and “resilience” frequently mentioned; each term has many meanings.
- 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – MEP explicitly mentioned multiple times.
- President Biden Executive Orders and new/developing initiatives – MEP mention and intersections.



# MEP and Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience

***MEPNN focus on and activities in manufacturer/supply chain resilience assistance is growing.***

- NIST MEP, MEP Centers collaboratively developing Manufacturer Resilience Framework (suite of tools, assessments, services) for Centers to offer to SMMs to increase national capabilities and capacities
- Includes systems perspective applying to:
  - Supply chain inputs, in-factory processes, customer and market outputs
- MEP Resilience assistance to U.S. manufacturers includes:
  - Pandemic response, incl. pivot to new production, new customers/markets
  - Supplier scouting - identify new suppliers, customers, markets
  - Disaster recovery and continuity of operations (COOP)
  - Business assessments/situational awareness
  - Supply chain visibility and sourcing strategies
  - Advanced manufacturing technology awareness and integration
  - Production processes and strategies
  - Cybersecurity and risk management



# The Remainder of Today's Briefing

- Cybersecurity Update
- 2021 NDAA
- EO14005 – 'Made in America'
- MEP Supplier Scouting

# MEPNN Cybersecurity

*February 2021*

MEP National Network continues to develop strong nationwide capabilities to provide cybersecurity assistance for small manufacturers.

- **Continues to be spurred by strong DOD partnerships.**
  - MEP role continuing with Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) requirements for defense sector and evolving for DOD Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program.
  - Continued emphasis on risk management for all manufacturing industries served by MEP Centers.
  - Importance of cybersecurity also being highlighted by opportunities relating to Industry 4.0 and manufacturer/supply chain resilience.
- MEP Centers nationwide providing cybersecurity services
  - All 51 Centers participating in MEPNN cybersecurity WG

# 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- Passed Jan. 1, 2021; specifies DOD budget, expenditures, policies for FY 2021.
  - NDAA is an authorization, not an appropriation.
- NIST MEP working with MEP Centers to ensure awareness, understanding of MEP-relevant sections.
- MEP communicating with and stands ready to assist DOD as appropriate.

## References to MEP program

- Sec. 1738 Assistance for Small Manufacturers in the Defense Industrial Supply Chain on Matters Relating to Cybersecurity.
- Sec. 9413 National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program Supply Chain Database.
- Sec. 9415 Coordination [by Manufacturing USA Institutes] with Hollings MEP Centers.

# Executive Order 14005 – ‘Made in America’

## Executive Order on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America’s Workers, signed Jan. 25, 2021.

- Section 1. Policy. “... The *United States Government* should, whenever possible, *procure goods, products, materials, and services from sources that will help American businesses compete in strategic industries and help America’s workers thrive.*”
- Sec. 7. Supplier Scouting. “To the extent appropriate and consistent with applicable law, *agencies shall partner with the **Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)**, ... to conduct supplier scouting in order to identify American companies, including small- and medium-sized companies, that are able to produce goods, products, and materials in the United States that meet Federal procurement needs.*”

*“We will use a national network of manufacturers — called a Manufacturing Extension Partnership — that’s in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, to help government agency connect with new domestic suppliers across the country.”*

# MEP Supplier Scouting

- 2009 MEP began national-scale supplier scouting in response to Buy America(n) provisions connected to ARRA-funded federal procurements.
- Evolution to state-by-state conduct of supplier scouting since 2009 to meet diverse supply chain sourcing needs, including pandemic response at national and state levels mobilized in 2020 for critical-need medical supplies/equipment.

## **Drivers for MEP supplier scouting:**

- Identify domestic supply sources for government and commercial supply chains across multiple markets: transportation, defense and aerospace, energy, consumer goods, medical supplies/equipment (including PPE).
  - New business opportunities for domestic suppliers totaling >\$350M combined (2009-2021).
- Domestic sourcing analyses for federal agencies in response to Buy America(n) waiver requests (2009-2016).
- Creation of competitive federal procurement opportunities to replace those that were previously sole sourced (2011-2015).

**Key to MEP supplier scouting success: MEPNN direct connections to U.S. manufacturers.**

# Discussion

This MAB Supply Chain WG is now more broadly focused on MEPNN efforts extending beyond DOD support to reflect broadened focus for the program.

NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEPNN focus areas, approaches and challenges.

# Executive Committee Working Group

- Committee members
  - Board leadership
    - Mary Isbister**
  - Board members
    - Mitch Magee, Pat Moulton, Matt Newman, George Spottswood**
  - NIST MEP support
    - Rob Ivester, Cheryl Gendron, Phill Wadsworth, Wiza Lequin**
- Deliverable
  - Provide guidance on future MEP Advisory Board leadership and membership recruitment, provide insights into cultivating strong Board governance as well as explore ways to expand the MEP Advisory Board's role in regard to the local MEP Center Boards.



# MEP Advisory Board: Local Center Board Outreach

## **Slow and steady opportunities to create connection with volunteers across the Network.**

- 51 Center Board Directors divided between the MAB membership.
- Connections made over the last year include informal conversations and attendance at board meetings; continuing into 2021.
- Discussions Around:
  - How has the current pandemic impacted your Center operations?
  - How has the Center adapted/responded to the changes? What are your immediate priorities as a result?
  - What are the key problems and issues that you think will be important to small manufacturers and their competitiveness and opportunities for growth in the near-term (1 to 2 years) and mid-term (3 to 5 years)?
  - What advanced manufacturing technologies are and/or will be needed by small U.S. manufacturers for the companies to be competitive and grow in the global marketplace in the near-term (1 to 2 years) and mid-term (3 to 5 years)?
  - What technologies or business models are important to you for the supply chain you currently participate in or those supply chains you choose to participate in the future?

## **Center Board Outreach Program Goal:**

Enhance strength of relationships between national and local boards

# MEP Advisory Board: Other Discussion Topics

- **Succession planning into the future**

- Additional board members being added each year.
- Goals - diverse membership with matching the statutory requirements.
- Appointed by the NIST Director with support of NIST MEP staff and the Executive Committee Working Group.

- **2020 MEP Advisory Board Report coming soon**

- Will be submitted to the DOC in the coming weeks.
- DOC will approve and distribute to Congress.
- Once with congressional representatives the report will be published on the NIST MEP website.

- **Support for our MEP Advisory Board**

- Historic reports and current documents on MEP Connect.
- *NIST MEP is here to support our National Advisory Board; let us know how we can help.*

# Future Meeting Schedule

## 2021

### Planning is Underway

#### Details Coming Soon

**June 30, 2021**

- Virtual or Tulsa, Oklahoma

**August 31, 2021**

- Virtual or Phoenix, Arizona
- *In conjunction with the MEP National Network Update Meeting and FORME Best Practice Conference*

# Thank You

For the Full Presentation, Please contact Cheryl Gendron at  
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