

# **MEP Advisory Board**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

## **FACA Board Meeting**

This is a simplified version of the presentation for website purposes.

# Day One Agenda

## Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

Briefing from Associate Director of Innovation and Industry Services, Mojdeh Bahar

Director's Update

SCOIN Update

Lunch

EV Panel Discussion and Q&A

Public Comment and Day One Wrap Up



# Day Two Agenda

## Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Welcome Back

Discussion & Reflections of Day One

Aerospace Panel

Secretary Gina Raimondo  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Around the Room and Meeting Wrap Up



# 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 from the MEP Director**

**Pravina Raghavan**  
MEP Director



# **Welcome to Washington, DC**

**Bernadine Hawes**  
MEP Advisory Board, Chair

# Introductions

## The MEP Advisory Board

Chair: **Bernadine Hawes**, Econsult Solutions, Inc.

Vice Chair: **Donald Bockoven**, Darling Fibers

- **Beth Bafford**, Calvert Impact
- **Winston W. Chang**, Snowflake
- **Dr. Jermaine Ford, Ed.D.**, Florence-Darlington Technical College
- **Louis Foreman**, Enventys Partners
- **Gail Friedberg Rottenstrich**, Zago Manufacturing Company, Inc.
- **Michael Garvey**, M-7 Technologies
- **Sean Ketter**, Oshkosh Corporation
- **Miriam Kmetzo**, Welding Technology Corp.
- **Chris Mathews**, National Custom Hollow Metal Doors and Frames & Maple Leaf Awning & Canvas
- **Pat Moulton**, Central Vermont Recovery Officer
- **Dr. Annette Parker**, South Central College
- **Candice M. Smith**, The Boeing Company
- **John T. Smith**, Wood-Mizer Holdings, Inc.
- **Tyrome Smith**, Common Mission Project
- **David Vasko**, Industry Consultant



# Welcome New MEP Advisory Board Members

**Dr. Jermaine Ford, Ed.D.**  
Florence-Darlington  
Technical College

**Winston W. Chang**  
Snowflake

**Candice M. Smith**  
The Boeing  
Company





# **Briefing from Associate Director of Innovation and Industry Services**

**Mojdeh Bahar**  
Associate Director,  
Innovation and Industry Services,  
NIST



# Director's Update

**Pravina Raghavan**  
MEP Director



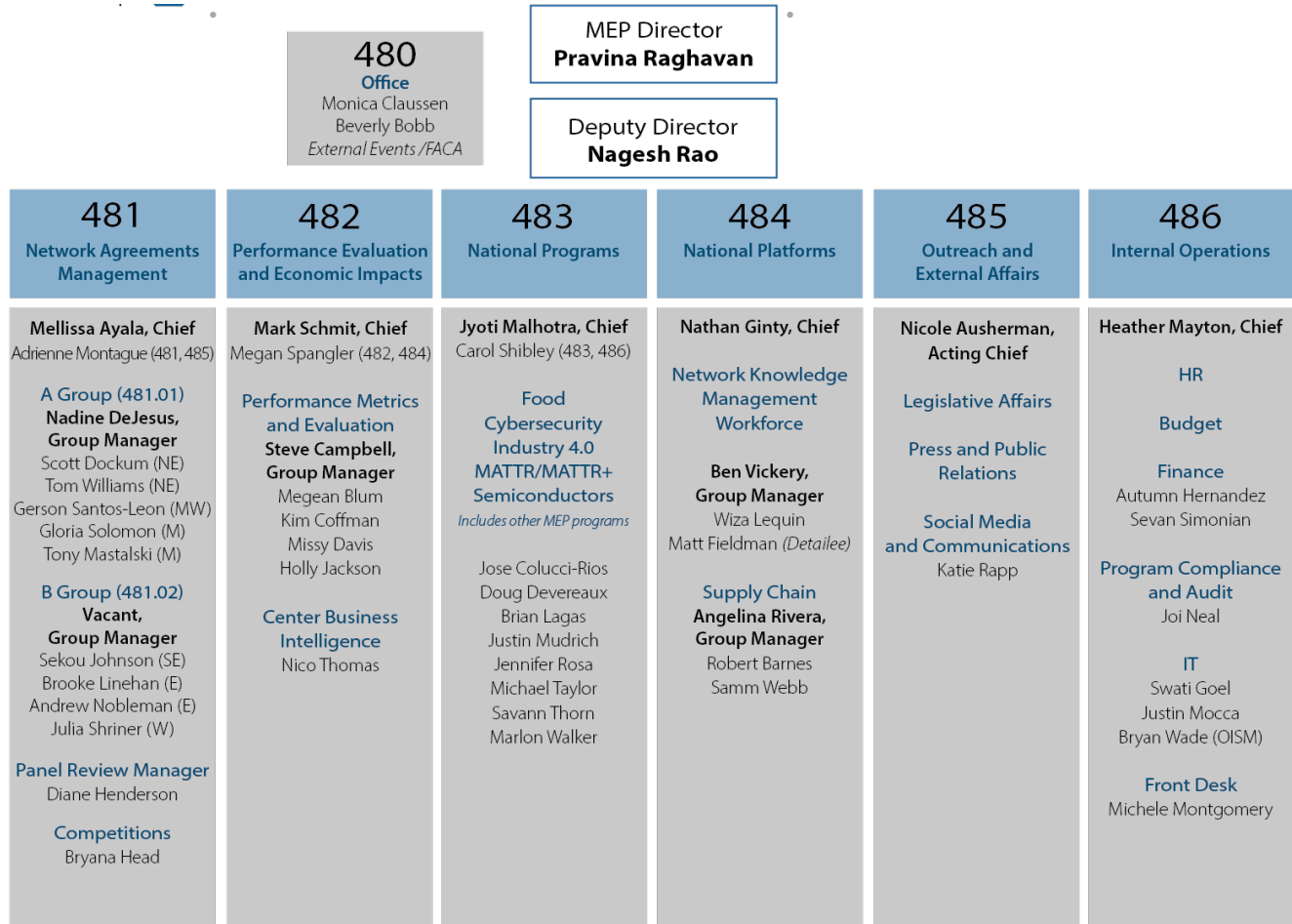
# NIST MEP Director's Update

- New Staff
- Budget
- Center State Competition
- MEPNN Strategic Plan Metrics and Updates

# New NIST MEP Team Members

- **Division 481 – Network Agreements Management**
  - Bryana Head, Competitions Management
- **Division 483 – National Programs**
  - Justin Muldrich, General Engineer
- **Division 484 – National Platforms**
  - Nathan Ginty, Division Chief National Platforms
  - Angelina Rivera, Supply Chain Group Manager
- **Division 486 – Internal Operations**
  - Swati Goel, IT

# NIST MEP Org Chart



Last Updated February 26, 2024

# MEP Program Budget Outlook

## FY 2023

### Final Appropriation Status

- \$175 million for MEP
- \$13 million in disaster supplemental
- Funding not subject to cost share requirements (elective for Centers receiving state funds conditioned on federal cost share requirement)

## FY 2024

### Appropriation Status

- CR through March 8, 2024
  - \$277.2 million for President's budget
  - \$175 million\* Congressional CJS Appropriations Bill from 3/3/24
    - Return of Cost Share requirements
    - House to vote on Wednesday, 3/6/24
    - Senate to vote on Friday, 3/8/24
- \*Numbers are subject to change

## NIST MEP Projected Spend Plan: Continuing Resolution through March 8, 2024

Available funding:	Millions
CR Funding Through 3/8/24	76.5
Carryover from FY2023	5.7
PY Recoveries	3.7
<b>Total available funding</b>	<b>85.9</b>

Planned expenditures:	\$ Millions
Center renewals	73.9
Contracts	1.6
NIST MEP Labor	5.8
NIST and program overhead	4.6
<b>Total planned expenditures</b>	<b>85.9</b>

\*Numbers are subject to change

# Recompetition of the MEP National Network

Jan. 1, 2025

Florida

July 1, 2025

Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

Jan. 1, 2026

Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Oct. 1, 2026

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Utah, Vermont

April 1, 2027

Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, Wyoming

July 1, 2029

Alaska





# Helping SMMs Overcome Challenges

**Mitigating  
supply chain  
vulnerabilities**

**Narrowing the  
workforce gap**



**Leveraging  
technology**



# Metrics Summary

## Mitigating Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

- **Goal:** Increase engagement with critical domestic manufacturing industries to mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities.
- **Goal:** Mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities by increasing MEPNN's business risk assessment and mitigation projects.

## Narrowing the Workforce Gap

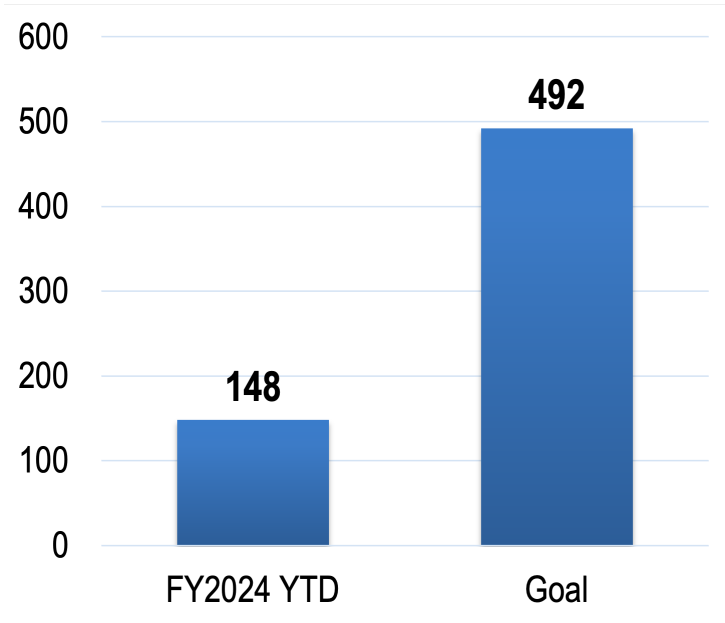
- **Goal:** Grow the number and depth of partnerships that are workforce-supporting.
- **Goal:** Increase the number of advanced manufacturing training projects delivered.

## Adopting and Leveraging Technology

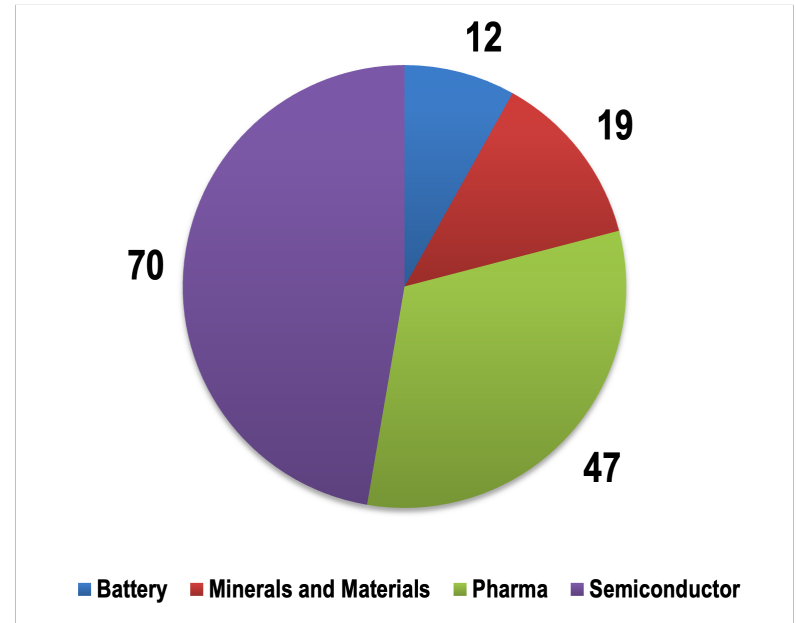
- **Goal:** Increase advanced manufacturing technology awareness and education engagements (projects) targeted to smaller manufacturers (<100 employees) in order to better prepare manufacturers to adopt new technologies.
- **Goal:** Increase cybersecurity awareness and adoption projects to make manufacturers more resilient and prepared to adopt new technologies.

# Engaging Industries Critical to US Supply Chain

## Progress Against 12-Month Goal

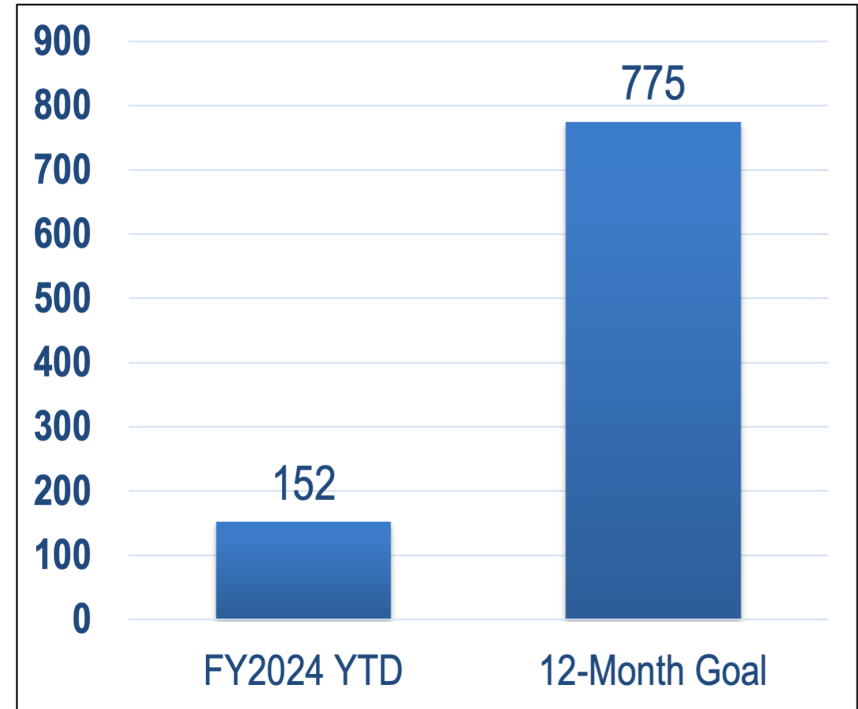


## Distribution of Clients Served



# Assessing and Mitigating Business Risk Through Resiliency Planning

- MEP Centers help make manufacturers more resilient
- **Goal:** Mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities by increasing MEPNN's business risk assessment and mitigation projects
  - 12-month goal of **775 projects** would represent 3% increase from previous performance periods





# Expanding Workforce Partnerships to Narrow Workforce Gap

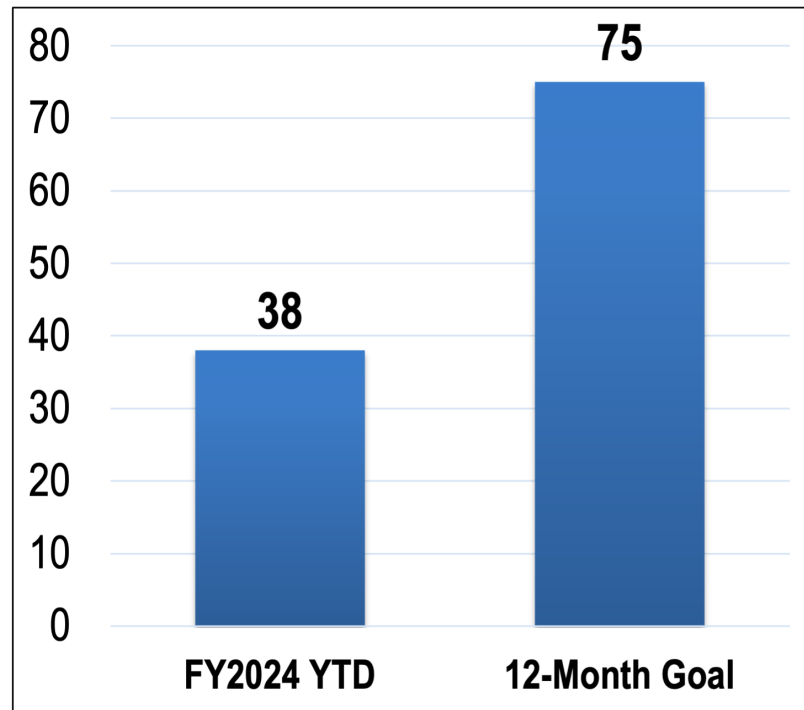
**Goal: Grow the number of partnerships that are workforce-focused**

- 12-month goal of **3%** would result in **21 new partnerships**
- Overall, MEIS still reflects 690 workforce supporting partners
- However, 6 new partners were added. 6 older partners were removed which mitigated net growth



# Workforce: Training Manufacturers to Leverage Advanced Manufacturing Technology

- Identified Center reported projects that were related to the following advanced manufacturing practices:
  - Augmented reality/virtual reality
  - Cloud
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Automate
  - Robots/cobots
- Once advanced manufacturing tech projects identified, then focused search to only include training engagements
- **Goal:** Increase the number of training projects focused on advanced manufacturing technology
  - Reaching a 12-month goal of **75 projects** in FY2024 would represent a **15% increase**
  - MEP Centers have completed **38 projects** in FY2024 YTD



# Building a Future Pipeline of Workers

- NIST MEP and MEP Centers are focused on increasing awareness of modern manufacturing jobs and **ALL** the people who work in them in order to:
  - Rebrand the public image of manufacturing nationally and in the states
  - Broaden partnerships and connections with educational and other entities working in this space
- Annual campaigns and resources developed and shared across the Network and various communications channels



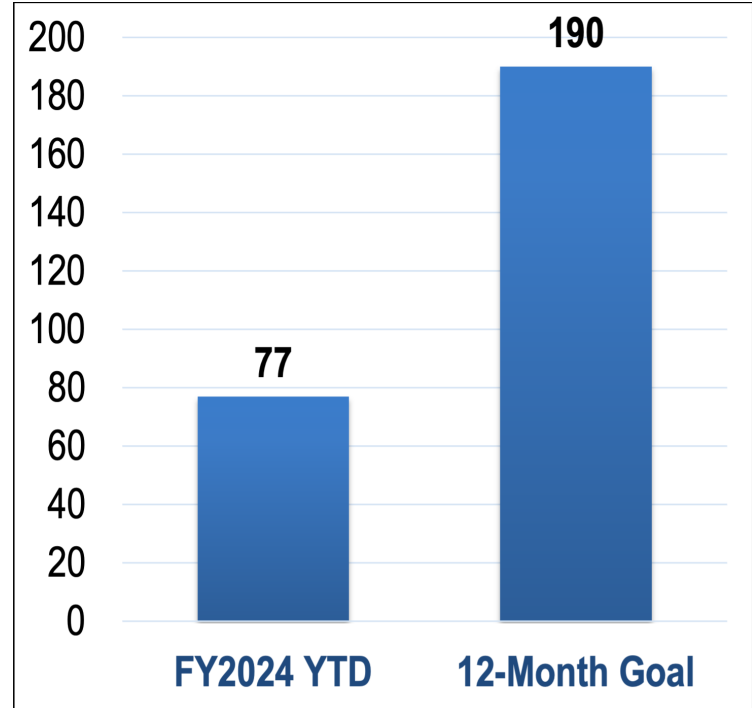
# **Adopting and Leveraging Technology**





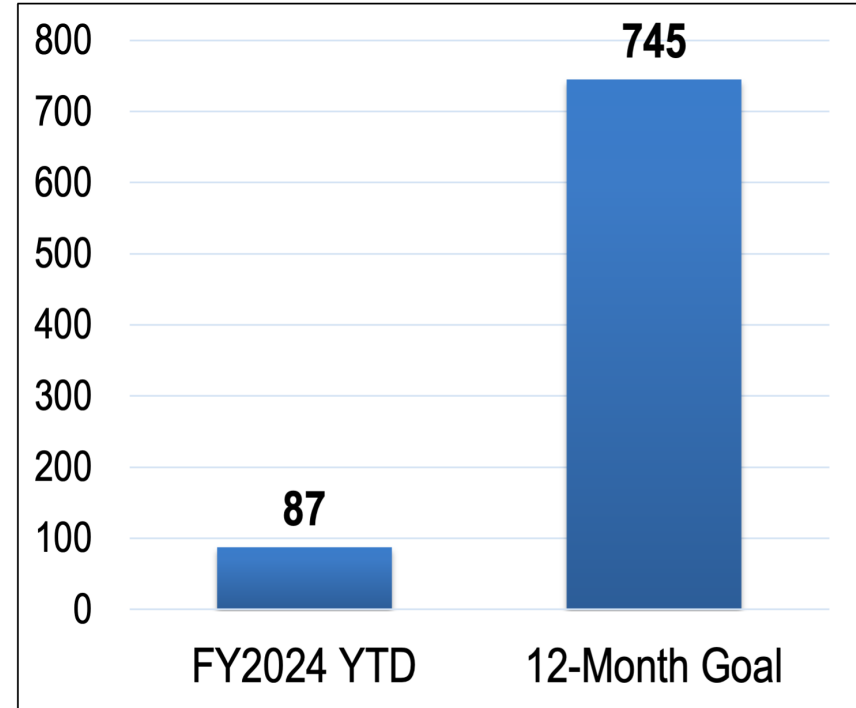
# Awareness and Education on Advanced Manufacturing Technologies to Small Manufacturers (<100 employees)

- Identified Center reported projects that were related to the following advanced manufacturing practices:
  - Augmented reality/virtual reality
  - Cloud
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Automate
  - Robots/cobots
- **Goal:** Increase adoption of technology by smaller manufacturers by **engaging** and **exposing** more technology to these companies (more projects)
  - 12-month goal of **190 projects** completed would result in a **10% increase**



# Increasing Cybersecurity Awareness and Adoption Among Manufacturers

- Cybersecurity is **critical** to the implementation of **technology** and **resiliency** of supply chains
- **Goal:** Enable manufacturers to safely adopt technology through stronger cybersecurity practices
  - 12-month goal of **745 cybersecurity related projects** completed would result in a **5% increase** from previous performance periods
  - **87** cybersecurity related projects have been completed across the MEPNN in FY2024 YTD



# Partnerships and Collaborations



Argonne National Lab & DOE

NASA

Manufacturing USA institutes

# Supply Chain Optimization and Intelligence Network (SCOIN)

- Two-year pilot program investing in the National Network to study manufacturing ecosystems and identify gaps in an effort to build more resilient sustainable supply chains through MEP assistance
- Map the capabilities and interconnections within manufacturing supply chains
- Scale up and enhance the impact of supplier scouting services to source domestic products and continue expansion of capabilities
  - SCOIN FTE and SSO both increasing

*This is an investment from MEP into the MEP National Network to build a sustainable program or offerings in supply chain.*

*This is a collaboration between NIST MEP and MEP Centers.*

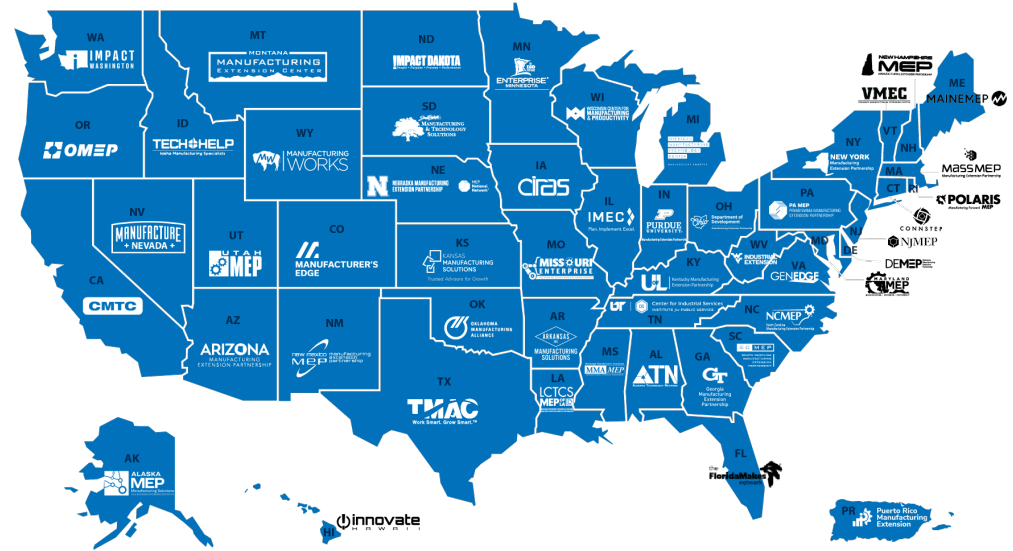
# Supply Chain Optimization and Intelligence Network (SCOIN)

- Provide MEP overview and Supplier Scouting webinars monthly to federal partners, their suborganizations, and financial award recipients
- Attend, engage, and present at numerous industries' conferences that represent the federal government supply chain priorities (EV, semiconductor, etc.)
- Support MEPNN when engaging OEMs to map out and better understand domestic supply chains
- Build capacity in each MEP Center by facilitating the employment of supply chain subject matter experts
- Outreach to OEMs and SMMs to broaden industry knowledge of MEP and educate them on the benefits of utilizing the National Network and supplier scouting services

# MEPPNN Supplier Scouting Usage

## January 2024 Supplier Scouting Usage

- **27 opportunities opened**
  - 14 items from 4 government agencies
    - 1 state agency
    - 3 federal agencies
  - 12 items from MEP Centers
  - 1 item from a private entity
- 21 opportunities closed and published
  - 86% avg Center response rate
  - 4 items from 2 government agencies
    - 3 Environmental Protection Agency
    - 1 U.S. Department of Commerce
  - 16 items from MEP Centers
  - 1 item from a private entity



# SCOIN Early Successes

OEMs

Multi-state  
Collaborations

Supply Chain  
Services

# Question

SCOIN is a two-year pilot program, is there anything that NIST MEP could do or should do in order to increase the likelihood of long-term viability (beyond two years)?



# Electric Vehicle Panel

- **Moderator:**
  - **Nagesh Rao, Deputy Director NIST MEP**
- **EV Panelists:**
  - **Ingrid Tighe:** Center Director, Michigan MEP
  - **Phil Mintz:** Center Director, North Carolina MEP
  - **Ethan Karp:** Center Director, MAGNET (part of Ohio MEP)

# **Day Two Agenda**

## **Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**Welcome Back**

**Discussion & Reflections of Day One**

**Aerospace Panel**

**Secretary Gina Raimondo**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**

**Around the Room and Meeting Wrap Up**



## Discussions & Questions

- What aspects of the meeting did you find most valuable or insightful?
- Were there topics or discussions that you felt could have been addressed more effectively?



Aerospace Technology Panel:  
**How SMMs Can Use Technology to be a  
Gamechanger in the Aerospace Supply Chain**

# Aerospace Panel:

- **Moderator**
  - **Jyoti Malhotra:** National Programs Division Chief, NIST MEP
- **Aerospace Panelists:**
  - **Quincy Brown:** Director of Space STEM and Workforce Policy, National Space Council, Office of the Vice President | The White House
  - **Kevin Carr:** Center Director, FloridaMakes (Florida MEP)
  - **Beatriz Gutierrez:** Center Director, CONNSTEP (Connecticut MEP)
  - **Tony Fernandez:** Center Director, New Hampshire MEP



# Remarks from the Secretary of Commerce

**Secretary Gina Raimondo**  
U.S. Department of Commerce