

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Zenagui Brahim
603-226-3200

Conference Engages Business Leaders & Educators in Quest to Prepare Youth for 21st Century Jobs in Manufacturing

NH Pathways to Success Conference Scheduled for May 24 in Nashua

Concord, NH: To answer the need for a new approach to train young people for careers in manufacturing, the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership will host a statewide summit to identify new educational pathways to insure a pipeline of skilled workforce in advanced manufacturing.

Co-hosted by the Career Development Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Division of Economic Development, the ***New Hampshire Pathways to Success Conference*** will bring together the state's business, education and elected leaders.

The conference will be held from **8:30 am-1 pm on Thursday, May 24** at Nashua Community College. Featured speakers will include Gov. John Lynch, Commissioner Virginia Barry PhD., of the New Hampshire Department of Education; Community College System of New Hampshire Chancellor Dr. Ross Gittell and Commissioner George Bald of The Department of Resources and Economic Development. The keynote address will be delivered by Bill Symonds, director of Harvard University's *Pathways to Prosperity Project*.

"New Hampshire's economy depends upon a skilled workforce capable of supporting 21st century manufacturing," said Zenagui Brahim, executive director of the NH MEP. "But the traditional approach to education has been too narrowly focused on academic classroom instruction. The goal of this summit is to bring together the state's educators, policymakers and business leaders to identify ways of expanding opportunities for young people through work-based learning and high-quality career and technical educational."

The goals for the *Pathways to Success Conference* include developing certifications and advanced training to help young people succeed through high-quality career and technical education; encouraging manufacturers and other business leaders to play an expanded role in the pathways system and provide opportunities for young adults to participate in work-based learning and manufacturing jobs related to their course of study and creating a new compact that ensures every young person is equipped with the education and experience to lead a successful productive life.

"For many young people, the transition from secondary schools to careers is fraught with obstacles and too few choices," Barry said. "Students not bound for college often feel trapped by a lack of experience and work opportunities. This summit is designed to address that problem and engage both the business community and the educational community in the development of a new system that offers multiple pathways to career success."

In addition to the featured speakers, the May conference will include four regional sessions that will bring together the diverse participants of each region to explore local partnership opportunities.

“The key to New Hampshire’s economic development lies in our workforce development,” Bald said. “But as a result of the recession, unemployment for young adults has risen much more sharply than for older more experienced workers. We need to find new ways of educating and training young workers entering the labor force, so that their skills match the needs of our businesses and manufacturers. I’m pleased that this summit will focus on the educational restructuring needed to ensure that our workers can compete successfully in a global economy,” Bald said.

For more information about the conference or to register, visit [Summit Web site](http://www.nhmep.org/)<http://www.nhmep.org/> or contact NH MEP at 603-226-3200.

About NH MEP

The NH MEP is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP system is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2,000 manufacturing and business “coaches” whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits and enhanced global competitiveness. For information on the MEP Lean Energy and Environment program, please visit, or phone 1-800-MEP-4MFG.