

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gary Groleau Named to the NIST MEP Advisory Board

Gary Groleau, Corporate Manager of Labor Relations & Organizational Development for New Hampshire Ball Bearings in Laconia, New Hampshire has been named to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP) Advisory Board (www.nist.gov/mep). The NIST MEP Advisory Board is tasked to assist in identifying proactive actions that will enable small manufacturers to successfully address and implement changes in technology and the business environment in the future. Groleau joins a team of approximately 10 manufacturing professionals chosen to provide advice and guidance to the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Groleau is very optimistic about the state of manufacturing today and honored to be named to the NIST MEP Advisory Board. "I am acutely aware of a recent trend, particularly prevalent among our New England towns and cities, to diversify away from an allegedly declining manufacturing-based economy," said Groleau. "I find this to be painfully paradoxical as careers in STEM and technology fields are projected to increase dramatically. So I argue that the manufacturing-based economy is NOT in decline but instead, remains robust while in the process of reinventing itself. While it's true, for example, that the number employed in NH manufacturing has declined over the last decade; manufacturing still employs 65,000 people, represents 19% of statewide compensation, creates real material wealth, and provides an average compensation of \$71,000 per employee--the highest of any sector! So manufacturing today, Advanced Manufacturing, is all about innovation through collaboration and not with leaders exclusively from industry but also government, education, and the non-profit community. NHMEP has long understood the value of stakeholder inclusion, the power of collaboration--primary reasons I'm proud to be associated with NHMEP. Naturally, I'm proud and excited to embrace my new role on the Federal MEP Advisory Board to help build capacity on a bigger stage."

Groleau is truly an integral part of education and business in New Hampshire. In 2012 he was appointed to the New Hampshire State Board of Education, a role he continues to be in today. He makes it a practice to regularly communicate the needs of employers and students through serving in advisory capacities for the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NHMEP), New Hampshire Coalition for Business and Education (NHCBE), New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) STEM Smarter Pathways, New Hampshire Community College Advanced Manufacturing Programs, and many of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers in high schools throughout New Hampshire.

He also lends support to the National Center for Competency Based Learning (NCCBL) and regionally, to the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM) located in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. He is an Incorporator and Executive Board member of the Belknap County Economic Development Council (Belknap EDC) and served on the Board of the Laconia Area Community Land Trust (LACL) to provide permanent housing for over 525 working families.

For 21 years Groleau has been with New Hampshire Ball Bearing (www.nhbb.com), a subsidiary of global manufacturer MinebeaMitsumi Inc. headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. They have over 1500 employees and three US manufacturing plants. He holds a BA in English Education from the University of New Hampshire, MS in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University and completed course work toward an Ed.D. in Organization Change at Pepperdine University.

In his home state Groleau is a member of the Advisory Council for the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP – www.nhmep.org). NH MEP provides affordable, innovative solutions in three key areas- Operational Excellence, Workforce Development, and Innovative Growth Solutions. NH MEP is able to help New Hampshire manufacturers improve their productivity, increase profitability, compete globally, and keep jobs in the state. From July 2011 and May 2016 NH MEP's assisted New Hampshire Manufacturers to create and retain 856 jobs, increase and retained \$154 million in sales, save \$18 million in costs, and invest \$27 million in their businesses.

“It is an honor for all of us at NH MEP and in New Hampshire to have Gary Groleau be named in the NIST MEP Advisory Board. His commitment to promote manufacturing in New Hampshire and now in the nation will always be very much appreciated. Gary never says no to any initiative that involves workforce development in advanced manufacturing. We look forward to working with him and giving support during his tenure in the NIST MEP Advisory Board”, said Zenagui Brahim, president of NH MEP.