



GREAT PLAINS

TECHNOLOGY & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

GPTMC Community Member Visits

NEW! This month, we are featuring community members that the GPTMC team visited in person this quarter and sharing their capabilities! We look forward to seeing many more members in 2023! To view more information about each company, please visit <https://greatplainstmc.org/community-member-visits>

Custom Wood Products (St. Marys) has been designing, manufacturing, and installing high-quality custom cabinetry since 1981. The company utilizes both industrial technologies and hands-on assembly and finishing in their 100,000 sq. ft. facility to develop precise products for residential and commercial needs.

Etezazi Industries (Wichita) manufactures multi-axis and sheet metal parts for aerospace clients throughout the region. The company is AS9100, ISO 9001, Boeing DPD-MBD, and ITAR certified, and utilizes cutting edge technology and seasoned professionals to design and deliver their products.

Kendall Packaging (Pittsburg) is the preferred flexible packaging manufacturer for your company's custom-manufactured barrier needs. With state-of-the-art equipment and certifications, the company is able to specialize in cold seal, stand-up pouch making, expanded gamut, and more.

Ernest Spencer (Meriden) provides metal fabrication, machine shop services, custom coatings, and specialty services. Their production facilities allow them to serve customers throughout the Midwest and beyond. The Terramac Crawler they produce was also selected as the "2022 Coolest Thing Made in KS!"

Hydro-Flex (Topeka) is a specialized fabricator of metal, Teflon hose, coiled, and custom bent tube assemblies. They pride themselves in providing the highest quality possible in hydraulic and pneumatic solutions. With their full line of products and services, Hydro-Flex can cover most fluid-connecting needs.

Safari Belting (Olathe) manufactures plastic modular conveyor belts that move everything from tic-tacs to cars. With over 400 belting solutions that are operating in plants around the world, Safari Belting continues to grow and challenge industry norms by focusing on solutions to assist their customers.

Want to schedule a meeting or visit with the GPTMC? Do you see a company you'd like to connect with? [Contact us](#) to learn more!

Did You Know...

...that 3D printing software revenues are predicted to reach \$6.2 billion in 2031 compared to \$1.2 billion this year? ([SmarTech Analysis market study, Design World](#)).



3D printing is rapidly growing! Ready to dive into the industry? Let us help you get started! Contact us for questions at info@greatplainstmc.org

Give Us A Follow!



NetWork Kansas Seeking Product Manager

NetWork Kansas is seeking applicants for a Product Manager position in the Impact Investment Center (IIC). This position will work under the direction of the IIC Director, provide investment services, and is expected to be a collaborative, active and hands-on leader for the IIC team and NetWork Kansas.

For more information about the position, please click [here](#) or contact tjnixon@networkkansas.com.



Have Partner News to Share?

Does your organization have news or announcements to share? We want to help you spread the news to our growing manufacturing community! Send it to us at info@greatplainstmc.org, or tag us in social media! [@GreatPlainsTMC](#) or [#GPTMC](#)

Upcoming Partner Events

- 1/8: Branding Basics
- 1/31: Intellectual Property Basics

View and sign up for more events at <https://greatplainstmc.org/events>

Newly Formed Rural KS Apprenticeship Program



In partnership with the Kansas Department of Commerce's Registered Apprenticeship office, Kansas Farm Bureau has created the Rural Kansas Apprenticeship Program (RKAP) to help address workforce needs throughout rural areas of Kansas.

RKAP is the state's first apprenticeship program that is focused on agriculture and rural communities to help develop industry-driven opportunities for farmers, ranchers and small agribusinesses. The apprenticeship programs allow apprentices to enjoy a full time job with certifications as well as expand their skillsets to keep Kansas businesses alive.

As a majority of Kansas is considered rural, this apprenticeship program is essential in helping farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses be successful. The apprenticeship model has been proven to be successful among other industries for many years, and can be tailored to meet the needs of rural businesses.

For more information, please visit the Office of Registered Apprenticeship's page at <https://ksapprenticeship.org/> or contact Joel Leftwich from KFB at leftwichj@kfb.org.

New Legislative App from the Kansas Chamber

The Kansas Chamber has launched a new legislative app with direct access to the latest news and information about state lawmakers, committees, bills and more. As the upcoming legislative session is right around the corner, this app will serve as a helpful tool for all Kansans.



The Kansas Chamber worked with AT&T Kansas and Propaganda3 to sponsor and build the new app. Propaganda3 of Overland Park, Kansas specializes in the design and development of industry-leading and award-winning software, apps, and websites.

This free app will serve as an on-the-go connection that allows Kansans to stay in touch with state and federal officials and what happens in the state legislation. This app has replaced the pocket-sized booklets the Chamber traditionally printed every two years. The app will also feature information about the Chamber's foundation, programs, and events.

To download the app, please visit your Google or Apple app stores. More information about the Kansas Chamber can be found at www.kansaschamber.org.

Creative Product Manufacturing Utilizes Website Development Program from the GPTMC

Creative Product Manufacturing (CPM) of Liberal, Kansas received assistance from the GPTMC to develop a new website, promotional video, and marketing materials for its new patented product called the Weld Right.



The Weld Right serves as a cost effective training aid that allows students and manufacturing employees to master all aspects of welding. It can be quickly incorporated into any welding training program and gives consistent, reliable, and repeatable results.

"I am so thankful for the team at the Great Plains TMC for their help in growing my online presence for the Weld Right. I look forward to expanding my website with even more products, and helping solve many welding challenges with the Weld Right." Ryan Howell, Owner.

CPM is ready to connect with manufacturers, welding supplier companies, and technical schools to sell the product and demonstrate the positive impacts it has on individuals learning how to weld. For more information and to contact CPM, please visit www.creativeproductmfg.com.



Manufacturing Goals to Start the New Year Off Right - Blog



Did your company reach the goals that were planned for 2022? Have you taken the time to reflect on how this year went? What is something you want to accomplish or change? 2023 is right around the corner. If you haven't already, make new goals for your company in 2023!

Goals give your team a direction and focus, and a chance to see improvements or areas that need to be worked on. The key to reaching these goals is working together. If your team isn't willing

invest the time and effort, the goals will not be met. It is important to make sure everyone at your company is on the same page, and even provides feedback on the types of goals the company should have.

One of our goals is to ensure that GPTMC community members have the tools and resources needed to succeed. We created a list of areas in which manufacturers can develop goals in 2023 to help their company grow and be innovative. Share this [blog](#) with your team or use it to make your own list. We hope that it will help your company be successful in the new year!

Encourage Your IT and Technical Staff to Join the GPTMC

The GPTMC membership is free and not limited to one person per company! Feel free to encourage others to [join](#), especially staff who are involved in IT and technical issues at your company.

The GPTMC is working with the K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI) to provide resources for manufacturers who are interested in learning more about new smart-manufacturing and digital technologies. Your staff can browse the GPTMC [digitization blogs](#), receive [monthly updates](#) about related events and sources, and [contact us](#) to get connected to technical support.

Learn more about our digitization efforts at <https://greatplainstmc.org/digital-manufacturing>.

Merry Christmas from the GPTMC!

The GPTMC wishes you a wonderful Christmas and great start to the 2023 year! Our office will be closed Dec. 26-Jan 2.

