What a challenging time we live in! We face everyday challenges not only in our work environment but our personal lives. Isn’t it nice to know that we have peers and family, good working partnerships, new opportunities and a country we love to help stabilize us during these times? Working with manufacturing, I realize that employees are not as much worried about what type of manufacturing work they will do, but will work be available? I grew up in a town with a cotton mill that provided for my family and met industry needs at that time. It was hard work and provided an income. Times have changed. Manufacturing jobs today require skill and a higher education. Manufacturing has changed and it will continue to change. This new change will require training, innovation and leaders who love manufacturing and its roots and those who want to take the U.S. to the next level of competition. The changes are being made. We can’t lose faith and hope. This new industrialization will bring more opportunity and revitalization. Not moving forward is not an option. The MTC and its partners are here to help. Give us a call if you have questions or need assistance. If you would like your company featured in our newsletter, please contact me. We would love to include you in December’s Newsletter. Linda
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!
Sixteen E3 Technical Assessments and three Lean and Green Events have been provided to Southwest Virginia manufacturers resulting in savings recommendations of $7,075,515 and 158 separate projects. Presently there is no process in place to determine the degree and benefit of implementation activities undertaken by the manufacturers.

The E3 funding entities require implementation documentation to support the ongoing annual funding ($208,000) that supports the 17-county and 4-city service area.

During the past four months Claire Pickrell and I attended Lean Six Sigma Black Belt training and testing. During the next few months we will be conducting a project utilizing the DMAIC process to understand recommended implementation successes and failures and develop an implementation process that can be used by the present sixteen E3 sites and all future sites for maximum implementation successes. Our goal is to ensure a minimum of 25 percent of these projects be implemented or 40 projects resulting in $1,768,879 savings.

Our plan is to survey all Southwest Virginia E3 sites (16) to determine:
- Degree of recommendation implementation activities (Measure);
- Understand reasons for implementation successes and failures between counties, business types, (public versus private ownership);
- Sales volume;
- Facility size and employment numbers (Analyze);
- Apply knowledge of analyze phase to implementation of improvements;
- Reduce obstacles causing failures of implementation;
- Provide access to service providers, training, funding sources etc. (Improve); and
- Develop a schedule for follow up for MTC and coordinate future service provider activity (Control).

If you have received E3 assistance, please support this project by providing implementation information at your facility including road blocks you have encountered. We will be contacting facility personnel in the near future.

Please remember: E3 services continue to be available to facilities interested in improvement opportunities.

The Board presented Dr. Richard Phillips with a Resolution for his faithful and unceasing devotion as a charter member of the MTC Board since the first day of June, 1993. Richard has provided numerous hours of guidance, counsel, and leadership in numerous roles. The Board expresses sincere appreciation to Richard for twenty years of valued contribution to the Board and MTC.

The Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) and the Board offer Dr. Phillips best wishes in his retirement and gratitude for his support and service to the MTC.
The MTC Board Meeting was hosted by Mountain Empire Community College on May 30. The Board welcomed consortium college Workforce Development Leaders to serve on the Board and to represent the service regions of Mountain Empire Community College, New River Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College, and Wytheville Community College.

**RENEWAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The Manufacturing Technology Center and the Consortium College Workforce Development (WFD) Leaders renewed their Memorandum of Understanding for 2012-2014. This agreement establishes a process for MTC to deliver non-credit industry services throughout the 17-county and 4-city service region and allows for both parties to join in partnership to:

- Exchange leads and marketing opportunities;
- Award community college CEU’s to MTC workshop attendees;
- Include each other in written materials;
- Link to each other’s websites;
- Exchange marketing resources for the purpose of increase marketing exposure;
- Refer customers, employers and participants, based upon requested core service; and
- Meet annually for the purpose of exchanging information and reviewing MOA.

**MTC NOMINATES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Wes Bolton,** Engineering Manager for Tempur Production USA, LLC (Duffield, VA) has a degree in Industrial Technology. Wes holds a Master in Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. Wes will represent and serve MECC’s service region.

**Anita McGinnis,** Executive Director of Policy, Programs, Employment and Training for the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Inc., has a degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Anita is new to her position and will be aligning the educational and workforce training resources with manufacturers’ priorities to close the skills gap to meet manufacturing employment needs. Anita will serve as a Member at Large.

**Wayne Kinder,** Materials Manager for the PBE Group in Tazewell, has a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He currently works with PBE’s transition team in bringing manufacturing from a Canadian company to the PBE Group in Tazewell. Wayne will represent and serve SWCC’s service region.