



# Polaris MEP Board of Directors

## About Polaris MEP

Polaris MEP provides competitive business improvement programs to grow Rhode Island's manufacturing industry. Polaris MEP is a statewide nonprofit organization, an affiliate of the Hollings National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP), and a business unit of the University of Rhode Island Research Foundation.

MEP Centers focus on helping small and medium-sized manufacturers generate business results and thrive in today's technology-driven economy. Polaris MEP is measured by the success of its clients.

## Our Guiding Principles / Values

- We are proactive with urgency
- We are trustworthy
- We listen and seek to understand
- We are committed to creating a diverse environment built on respect for all
- We actively seek solutions through the manufacturing ecosystem

## Why Polaris MEP?

We are an integral part of the state's manufacturing community, helping it rebound in the last decade and now guiding it toward a strong future of advanced manufacturing.

"The staff at Polaris MEP is focused on results rather than just delivering some standardized approach – an important difference in focus. We give Polaris MEP very high marks as an organization that meets and exceeds expectations."

– Richard Nadeau, Videology

## Board Responsibilities

### Commitment to:

- Participate in ad-hoc or special meetings as scheduled.
- Participate on one or more committees
- There are 4 quarterly meetings that board members are expected to attend
- Promote the mission of Polaris MEP
- Provide subject matter expertise
- Be an engaged and active member of the board

### Contribute by:

- Making introductions to the relevant business and technology communities.
- Being an advocate with the Rhode Island government entities
- Serving as an ambassador for the organization as appropriate.
- Reaching out to potential partners and funders when possible.
- Participate on a board committee as needed

### Target Industries:

1. Chemical, Plastics
2. Composites
3. Computers, Electronics, Medical Devices, Biotech
4. Food & Beverage, Jewelry
5. Metals & Machinery
6. Shipbuilding, Transportation
7. Textiles

### Areas of Expertise:

Lean, Quality, Facility Layout, Growth & Strategy, Tech Acceleration, Cybersecurity & Workforce Development



## What We Do

We directly support manufacturing companies through project-based engagements and strategic partnership. We provide expertise and resources to expand RI's manufacturing ecosystem.

In partnership with URIRF, 401 Tech Bridge and state manufacturing stakeholders, we create and drive programs and initiatives to advance manufacturing in Rhode Island.

- We are recognized as the only organization exclusively servicing the top line, bottom line and pipeline of the manufacturing sector.
- We have the capability to deliver a broad array of services from the production floor to the discovery of new products and markets.
- We provide innovative resources to proactive manufacturers who want to grow their businesses.
- We deliver direct customer impact and value.

## Advancing Skills

We advocate to expand manufacturing in Rhode Island to ensure positive outcomes through training programs, knowledge sharing and workforce program development.

### Polaris MEP

- Facilitates and organizes project-based services for clients, education programs
- Identifies trends for manufacturing growth
- Collaborates with companies, government agencies and educational communities that are advancing manufacturing into the future

