

National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing Summit 2025

October 15–17, 2025

FANUC America Corporation

3900 West Hamlin Road, Rochester Hills, MI



FANUC



Join the **National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (NCNGM)** and the **National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC)** for a 2½-day summit focused on the future of advanced manufacturing. Explore cutting-edge technologies, engage with industry experts, and collaborate with educators and workforce leaders shaping the next generation of manufacturing.

Day 1 - Wednesday, October 15

 **FANUC CTC Auditorium** |  **8:00AM Check-in with Continental Breakfast**

Speakers & Sessions: Start time 8:30AM

NEXT GENERATION MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY UPDATES & FACILITIES TOUR

8:30 – 8:40 **Welcome Remarks** Paul Aiello *FANUC America*

8:40 AM – 9:10 AM **Matt Kirchner** – Keynote Speaker; *Host of TechEd Podcast*

9:10 AM – 9:30 AM **Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch** – *Executive Director, National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing*

9:30 AM – 9:55 AM **Joe Baldiga** – *National Education Program Manager, FANUC America*

9:55 AM – 10:20 AM **Tony Nighswander** – *President, APT Manufacturing Solutions*

10:30 AM – 10:45 *Break*

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM **Claude Dinsmoor** – *FANUC America Artificial Intelligence*

11:15 AM – 11:45 PM **Paul Aiello** – *FANUC America Emerging Technologies Presentation*

11:45 PM – 12:15 PM **Drew “The MFG” Crowe** – *Founder, Manufacturing Renaissance & Youth Advocate*

12:15 – 1:15 PM - Lunch Break & NCNGM Panel Presentations

NCNGM Team: **Tim Baber**, Full-Time Professor, Department Chair of Welding Technology, College of the Canyons, and Co-Principal Investigator NCNGM; **Jerry Muller**, Industrial Technology Coordinator and Trainer, Central Community College, and Co-Principal Investigator NCNGM; **Chris Dennis**, Assistant Professor, Supply Chain Management, Columbus State Community College, and co-Principal Investigator NCNGM; **Eric Flynn**, Professor at Connecticut State Community College, Faculty Technical Lead of MET², and Co-Principal Investigator of CICSTART.

1:15 – 2:00 PM **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

2:00 – 5:00 PM **FANUC FACILITIES TOUR** (Shuttle buses provided)

Day 2 - Thursday, October 16

 **FANUC CTC Auditorium** |  **8:00AM Check-in with Continental Breakfast**

Speakers & Sessions: Start time 8:30AM

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM **Paul Lavoie** Co-Keynote – *Former CT Chief Manufacturing Officer and Current VP of Innovation and Applied Technology at University of New Haven, CT.*

APPLIED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MANUFACTURING

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM **Dr. Suj Chandrasekhar** Co-Keynote – *Founder, Strategic Insights (Leveraging AI Platforms)*

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM **Dr. Ann Beheler** – *NCNGM Leadership & BILT - Employer-led Community College Programs w/ Emphasis on AI in Manufacturing*

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SUCCESS STORIES

10:15 AM – 10:35 AM **Dayonte Grimes** – *Lapeer High School Instructor, Michigan*

10:35 AM – 10:50 AM **Carver Middleton** - *Mississippi State AiM-Up Program*

EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM **Rockwell Automation Michael Cook**, *Director Industry-Academia Engagement.*

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM **AWS American Welding Joe Young**, *Associate Director of the AWS Foundation*; **Richard Polanin**; **Tim Baber**, *AWS Vice Chair - AWS National Education Committee, NCNGM Co-PI, Department Chair CoC*

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Weld-ED Richard Polanin**, *Co-Principal Investigator for Weld-Ed, the National Center for Welding Education and Training* & **Tim Baber**

LUNCH AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS' INTRODUCTIONS

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Accufacture**, **APT Manufacturing**, **FANUC Education Solution Providers**, **Fronius**, **Levil Technology**, **Lincoln Electric**, **National Institute of Industry and Career Advancement (NiiCA)**, **National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)**, **Miller Welding**

Day 2 - Thursday, October 16 (continued)

AFTERNOON HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE TECH STATIONS

The session is 30 minutes with 10 minutes allowed for transition until each attendee has visited all stations.

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM, 1:40 PM – 2:10 PM,

Break from 2:10 PM to 2:40 PM DONUTS AND CIDER

2:40 PM – 3:10 PM, 3:20 PM – 3:50 PM, 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM, (Free Period 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM)

End of the day by 5:00 PM

Hands-on Interactive Tech Stations

1. **Mechatronics & Connected Systems** (Location: Training Lab)
2. **Collaborative Robots** (Location: Training Lab)
3. **Welding & Additive Manufacturing** (Location: Arc Lab)
4. **CNC Machining & Hybrid Tech** (Location: Robodrill Lab & MFG Floor)
5. **Smart Manufacturing, Data Monitoring, Virtual Reality & AI** (Location: CEC Foyer)

Time	1:00 – 1:30PM	1:40 – 2:10PM	2:40 – 3:10PM	3:20 – 3:50PM	4:00 – 4:30PM
Mechatronics	6. Blue	7. Yellow	8. Orange	9. Green	10. Red
Collaborative	11. Red	12. Orange	13. Blue	14. Yellow	15. Green
Welding	16. Green	17. Blue	18. Yellow	19. Red	20. Orange
CNC	21. Orange	22. Red	23. Green	24. Blue	25. Yellow
Smart MFG	26. Yellow	27. Green	28. Red	29. Orange	30. Blue

Day 3 - Friday, October 17

 *FANUC CTC Auditorium* |  *8:00AM Check-in with Continental Breakfast*

Speakers & Sessions: Start time 8:30AM

BUILDING THE TALENT PIPELINE: DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM **Drew “The MFG” Crowe**, *Founder, Manufacturing Renaissance & Youth Advocate*

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM **Fair Chance Hiring & Second Chance Employment Panel - Drew Crowe, Mark Kappes**, *Gateway Technical College*; **Jake Gorden**, *Michigan Department of Corrections*

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM **Women in Robotics - Panel Discussion - Debra Basso**, *Director R&D Product Information and Development Systems at FANUC America Corporation*; **Katie Austin**, *Applications Engineer, General Industries and Automotive FANUC America Corporation*; **Nivedhitha (Neethu) Giri** *Engineering Leader in Robotics R&D and Industrial Automation*; **Jessica Juhasz**, *Engineering Manager FANUC America Corporation*

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM **The Uniquely Abled Project John Wheeler, Mark Kappes** – *Gateway Technical College*

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM **STEM Accessibility Initiatives - Mike Sauter**, *Adjunct faculty at National Institute for the Deaf (NTID), DeafTEC, Project Good to Go, and Accessibility Expert for AccessATE*; **Donna Lange** (VIDEO), *Associate Professor, Department of Information and Computing Studies, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, DeafTEC, Project Good to Go, Rochester Institute of Technology.*

CLOSING REMARKS AND SURVEY

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM *Closing Remarks, Survey, & Box Lunch at Noon*