Manufacturing Industry Sector Quarterly Meeting Report

Friday, April 17, 2026 |7:30AM – 10:30am
Location: Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center

Welcome and Introductions - Paul Mayer and Dr. Eddie Tealer

All participants were welcomed, which included industry and public partners, and other invited guests. Special acknowledgement given to the champions, action teams, and conveners. Several campus presidents were introduced, including Dr. Rick Smith, North Lake Campus – Construction sector lead, Dr. Macario Hernandez, Mountain View Campus – Aviation and Aerospace sector lead, and Dr. Kay Eggleston, Richland Campus – Business & Finance sector lead.

Champion Remarks - Roscoe Davis

Gratitude was expressed for the ongoing collaboration and support among campus staff and participants, highlighting the shared commitment to student success. The importance of cross-sector collaboration was emphasized, noting opportunities for students in areas such as manufacturing, IT, logistics, business, and finance.

Student Panel Discussion on Technical Education and Career Paths - Cynthia Gant

Several students shared their journeys into technical fields such as cybersecurity, engineering, and computer science, highlighting hands-on learning experiences and certifications earned. One student emphasized the growth and opportunities in cybersecurity, noting multiple certifications and the success of peers entering high-paying trades like welding. Another student described early exposure to coding and robotics from elementary through high school, leading to interests in electrical and robotics fields. Engineering students discussed competitive projects involving design and modeling software like Inventor, including national competitions. Computer science students shared their inspirations and the benefits of diverse classes such as networking and cybersecurity, expressing gratitude for opportunities to explore these fields.

Hands-on experiences were highlighted as critical, including simulated network labs with routers and switches, real-world problem-solving scenarios, and the use of industry-standard tools and software like Revit and multimeters. Mentorship from instructors was noted as pivotal in building confidence and guiding students through

projects such as TSA competitions and robotics, demonstrating the practical application of classroom learning to workforce readiness.

Perspectives on AI and Technology Integration

The panel discussed how AI is viewed as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for jobs. Students and educators expressed optimism about AI enhancing their fields, particularly cybersecurity and engineering, by automating monotonous tasks and allowing focus on critical thinking. The use of AI in programming education was described as a step-by-step aid rather than a shortcut, fostering deeper understanding rather than reliance on direct answers. The importance of embracing AI to avoid falling behind in technological advancement was emphasized, alongside recognition of AI's broad societal benefits across finance, military, and other sectors.

Keynote Address on AI Transformation and Industry Applications - Mr. Vimal Vasudevan

The keynote speaker, co-founder and co-CEO of an AI company, provided an overview of AI as a transformative technology akin to electricity or the internet. He traced the evolution of information technology from ancient writing systems to modern AI, emphasizing AI's role as an extension of industrial automation with intelligent agents capable of collaboration and decision-making beyond fixed rules. The speaker highlighted the rapid growth in data generation, computational power, and open-source tools enabling widespread AI innovation.

Examples of AI applications in industry were given, particularly predictive maintenance to optimize equipment servicing, reducing costly downtime by empowering frontline workers with data-driven insights. The contrast between traditional rule-based programming and machine learning approaches was explained, noting challenges such as the opacity of AI decision-making processes. The speaker urged embracing AI as a transformation requiring creativity, empathy, and human judgment to ensure AI benefits society responsibly.

Implementing AI and Change Management in Organizations

The discussion addressed strategies for introducing AI in the workplace, emphasizing the necessity of clean data, multidisciplinary teams, and inclusive workshops to foster understanding and adoption. Effective change management was described as a critical deployment tool, involving clear goals, stakeholder engagement, and ongoing

communication to avoid superficial AI rollouts that fail to deliver value. Ensuring compliance with emerging AI policies and cybersecurity standards was also highlighted as essential for sustainable AI integration.

Industry and Educational Collaboration Opportunities

Representatives from academic institutions and industry encouraged partnerships to leverage student talent in enhancing product development, automation, and safety systems. Examples included autonomous vehicle projects and biomedical innovations overseen by professionals, showcasing the practical impact of student-led research. The importance of retaining local talent and fostering entrepreneurship within the community was also noted.

Addressing AI Challenges: Bias, Data Quality, and Human Oversight

Concerns about AI bias, misinformation, and the need for human oversight were discussed. The speaker stressed that AI outputs depend heavily on the quality and curation of input data, and users should operate with skepticism and critical thinking, assuming the AI may produce flawed results. The future of AI in industry is likely to involve edge computing with smaller localized models to reduce energy costs and increase efficiency. Continuous education and mentorship were recommended to prepare students to make informed decisions when using AI-tools.

Societal and Economic Impacts of AI

The panel reflected on AI's potential to accelerate the knowledge economy, transforming how information and value are exchanged. While physical labor may decline due to automation, AI-driven innovation is expected to expand economic opportunities. The importance of creativity, empathy, and maintaining human connections was underscored to ensure AI serves humanity positively.

Action Items

- Attendees are invited to participate in campus tours led by counselors, principals, or assistant principals.
  - Instructions provided for gathering outside the CTE office area for the tour.
- Post-event information will be shared on the website for community access.

Closing Remarks and Community Engagement - Roscoe Davis

The event concluded with acknowledgments of educational and community partners, campus leadership, and encouragement for continued collaboration to support workforce development, students, and programs. Attendees were invited to tour facilities showcasing student projects, reinforcing the shared commitment to preparing a skilled future workforce in technology and AI-related fields.

Dallas College – Next Generation Sector Partnerships: Manufacturing Industry Quarterly Meeting

April 17, 2026 | 7:30 to 10:00 AM

Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center
Lecture Hall
4885 N. President George Bush Hwy
Garland TX 75040

DCMA
Dallas County Manufacturers' Association

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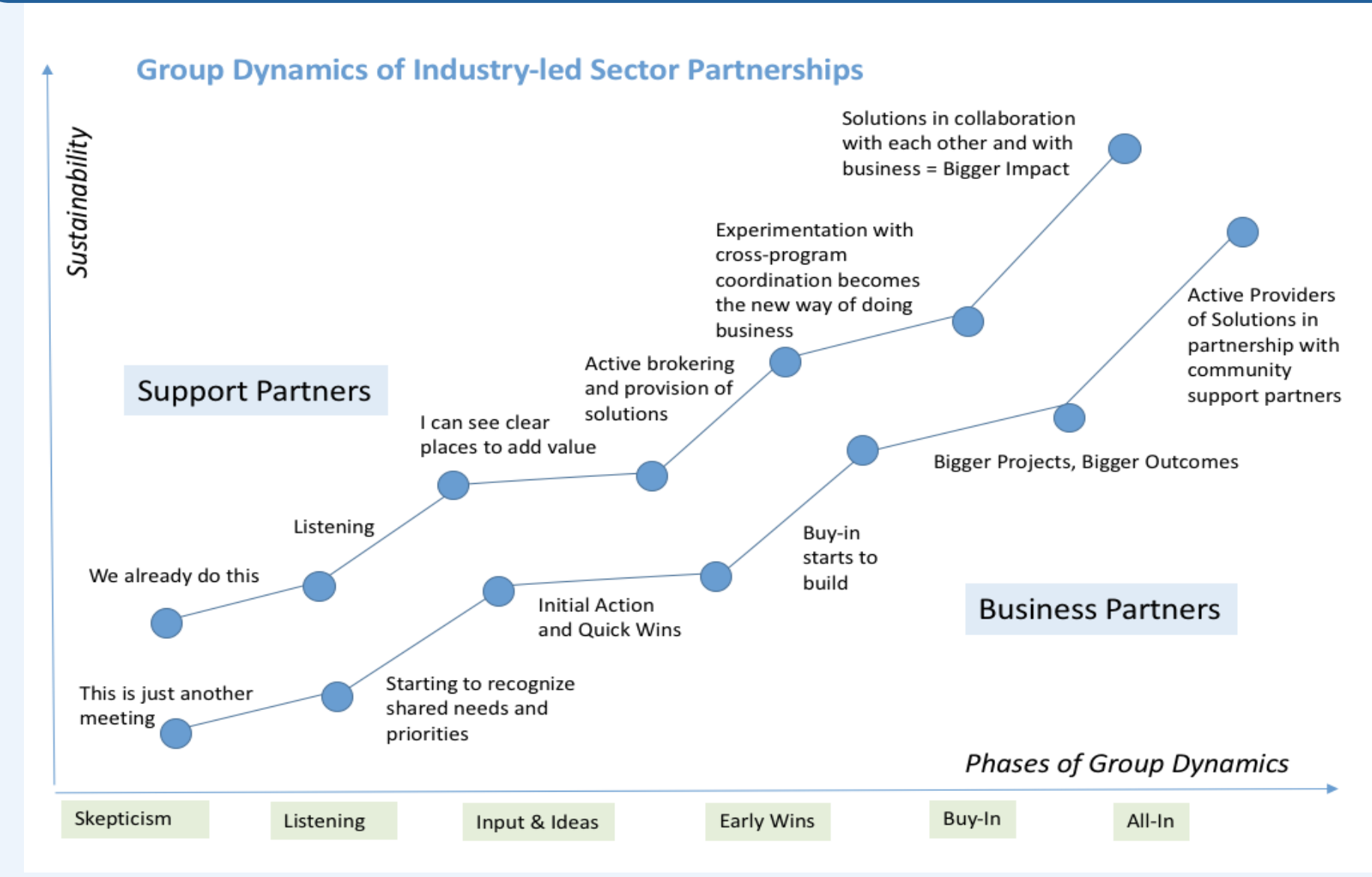
Agenda

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Check-in / Networking / Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 8:05 a.m.	Welcome: Paul Mayer, DCMA CEO
8:05 a.m. - 8:10 a.m.	Manufacturing Sector Update: Dr. Eddie Tealer, Dallas College Eastfield Campus President & Manufacturing Lead
8:10 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Manufacturing Industry Sector Champions Introductions and Updates
8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	Student Panel
8:50 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	AI Keynote Speaker – Mr. Vimal Vasudevan
9:20 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Q&A with Mr. Vimal Vasudevan
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Roscoe Davis: Calling Industry to Get Involved | Wrap up | Follow-up Questions
9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Adjourned

Storyline Metrics: Turning Points as a Partnership Evolves



EDGE NORTH TEXAS

EDUCATE * DEVELOP * GROW * EMPLOY

Industry Led | Dallas College Powered

Dr. Joe Seabrooks
President, Cedar Valley Campus

Dr. Bradford Williams
Vice Chancellor, Operations;
President, El Centro Campus

Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins
President, Brookhaven Campus

Dr. Eddie Tealer
President, Eastfield Campus

Dr. Joe Seabrooks
President, Cedar Valley Campus

Dr. Kathryn Eggleston
President, Richland Campus

Dr. Macario Hernandez
President, Mountain View Campus

Dr. Rick Smith
President, North Lake Campus

Manufacturing Industry Sector Champions:

Lauren Alder – Texas Instruments –THANK YOU!

John Fullilove – Texas Instruments –WELCOME!

Evan Buell – Dot It/National Checking Company (NCCO)

Roscoe Davis – Plastipak Packaging, Inc.

Kristina Lawson – Daisy Brand

Manufacturing Industry Sector

- Training Creation and Development
- Recruitment and Promotion

Overarching opportunity: A place at the table for small, medium, and large partners to engage as an industry:

Goal – Increase Industry Participation!

It is an industry-driven, prioritized agenda, with best practices, such as leveraging information!

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Action Team Priority One
Training Creation & Development

Champion Evan Buell

Manufacturing Industry Sector

Manufacturing Sector Partnership Action Teams Focus:

- **Priority 1 Update - Training and Development Creation:**
- Led by Industry Champion Evan Buell
- Centralized Dallas College industry sector website – **LIVE!**
  - Answering the **WHERE and HOW** to access these resources
  - Analyzing industry **engagement metrics**
  - Allowing for **continuous improvement!**
  - Asking industry partners the question – **WHAT IS MISSING?**

DCMA Dallas County Manufacturers' Association

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New Industry Sector Website: Manufacturing

EDGE
NORTH TEXAS
Educate • Develop • Grow • Employ

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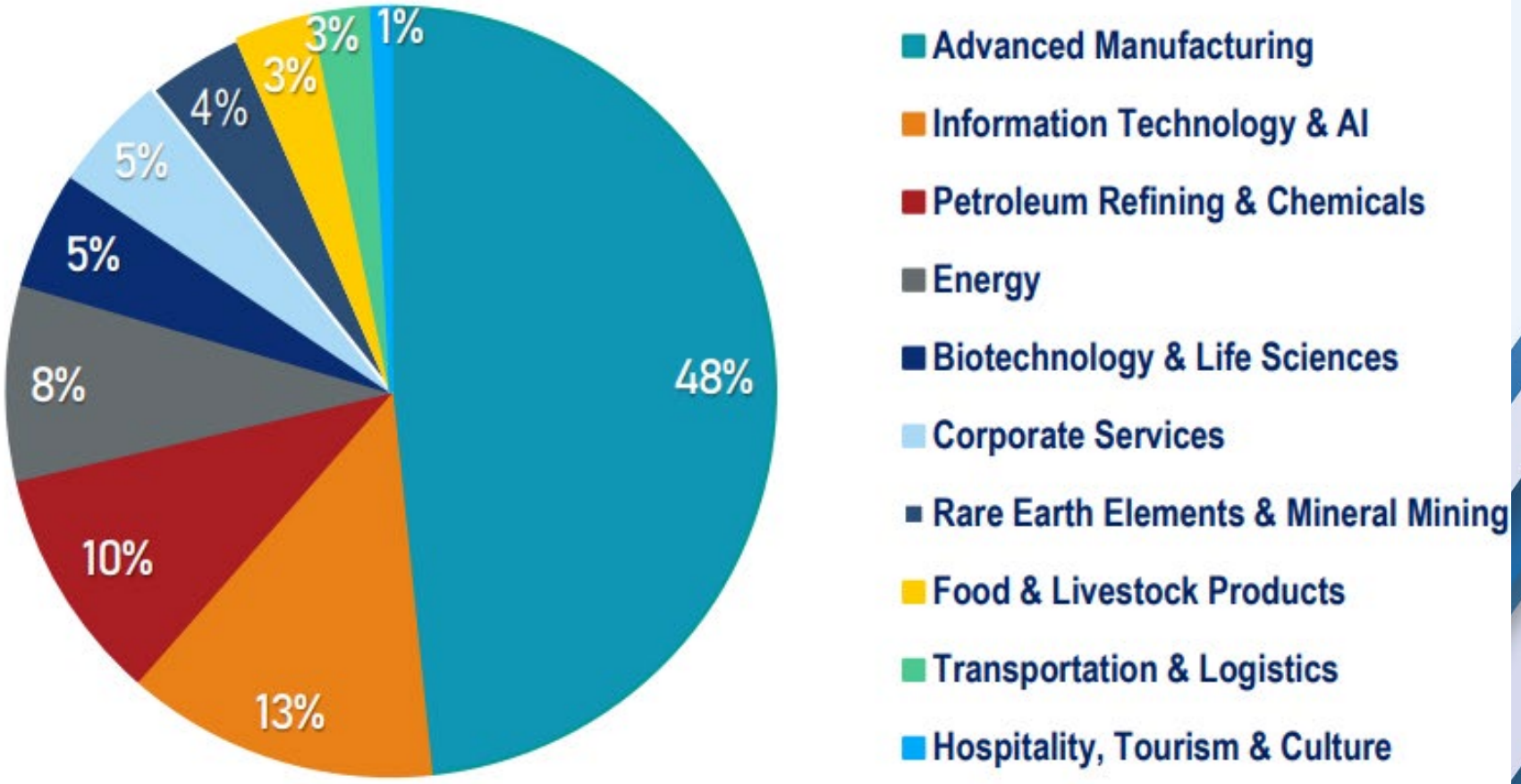
Action Team Priority Two
Recruitment & Promotion

Champion Roscoe Davis

Business Development Update

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

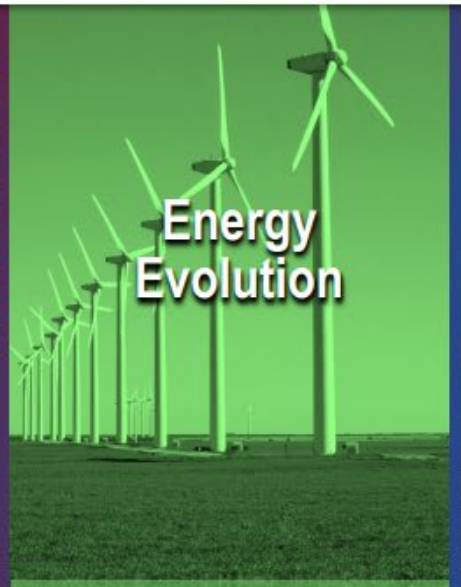
ACTIVE PROJECTS



TARGET INDUSTRY SECTORS IN TEXAS

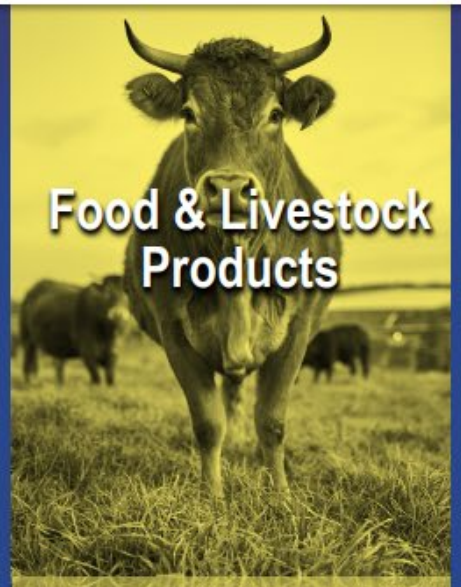
Advanced Manufacturing

- Aerospace Vehicles, Aircraft & Defense
- Automotive
- Computers, Electronics & Semiconductor
- Heavy Machinery



Energy Evolution

- Electric Power Generation & Transmission
- Oil & Gas Extraction, Production & Transportation
- Renewables

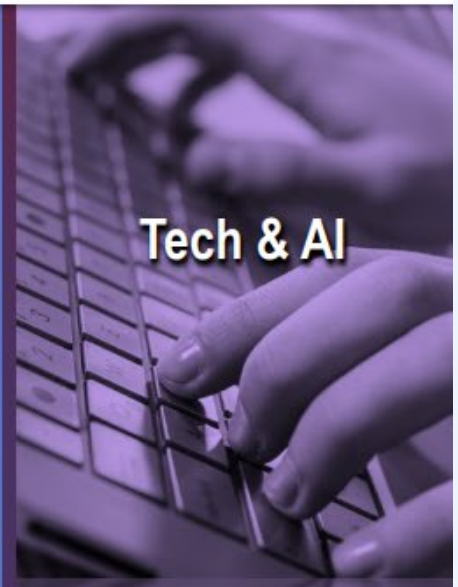


Food & Livestock Products

- Food Processing
- Livestock Processing

Hospitality, Tourism & Culture

- Film, Music & Culture
- Hospitality & Tourism



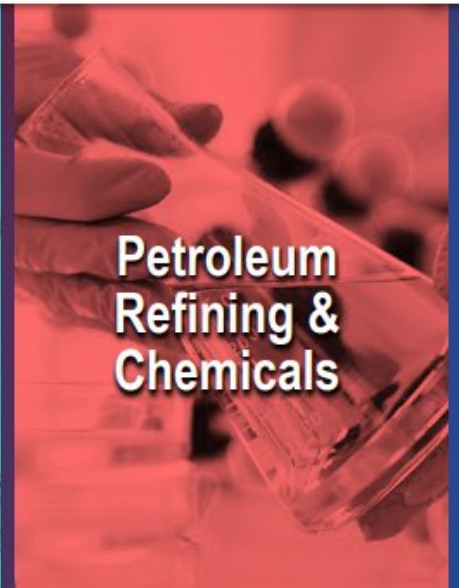
Tech & AI

- Information Technology
- Artificial Intelligence

TARGET INDUSTRY SECTORS IN TEXAS

Life Sciences & Biotechnology

- Agricultural Science & Technology
- Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices

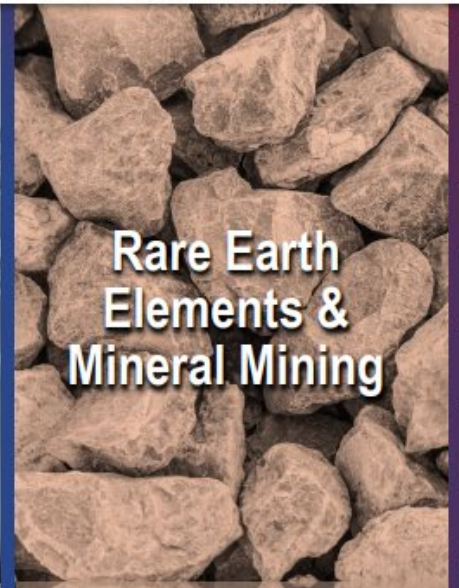


Petroleum Refining & Chemicals

- Industrial Chemical Products
- Petroleum Refining
- Plastics

Professional Services & Corporate Operations

- Business Services
- Corporate Headquarters
- Financial Services



Rare Earth Elements & Mineral Mining

- Metal Mining
- Nonmetal Mining

Transportation & Logistics

- Distribution
- E-Commerce
- Transportation and Aviation Services

Manufacturing Industry Sector

Manufacturing Sector Partnership Action Teams Focus:

- **Priority 2 Update - Recruitment and Promotion of the Manufacturing Industry:**
  - Creating a strong workforce pipeline from ISDs – Community College – Industry
  - Manufacturing Industry Mindset Change (middle school, high school, and parents)
  - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Panel Discussion

DCMA Dallas County Manufacturers' Association

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Student Panel

Core Team Member
Cynthia Gant

Manufacturing Industry Sector Keynote Speaker

Mr. Vimal Vasudevan
Co-Founder & Co-CEO of FOREVIZ

Keynote Speaker

Connecting Manufacturing Industry and Public Partners

Manufacturing Industry Sector Events

- Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas – Rapid Response Event on Friday, April 24 from 2pm – 4pm
- South Garland CTE Career Fair at South Garland High School on Friday, April 24 from 9:30am – 1:15pm
- Dallas County Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins, GRAD 2 HIRE Job Fair at the Shops at Red Bird on Wednesday, April 29 from 10am – 2pm.
- DCMA Resource Expo at the Dallas College Garland Center, 675 Walnut Street on Wednesday, May 13 from 7:30am – 10:00am
- Texas Career Day at the Curtis Culwell Center on Thursday, September 24 from 9:30am – 2:30pm

Thank you!