Petra Mitchell, President and CEO @ Catalyst Connection

Petra Mitchell is the President and CEO of Catalyst Connection, a private, nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to helping manufacturers with management consulting and technical assistance leading to business growth and job creation. Catalyst Connection is part of the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and the Industrial Resource Center (IRC) of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Petra Mitchell is its Center Director. Petra Mitchell’s experience in manufacturing operations, technology acceleration, and business development stretches back to 1988. Before joining Catalyst Connection, she was employed by GE Aircraft Engines, now GE Aviation.

She holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Dayton, and an M.S. from the University of Cincinnati. Petra was named a 2011 Top Women in Business Leader, a 2012 Top Energy Leader and a 2016 Most Admired CEOs in Pittsburgh by the Pittsburgh Business Times. She is on the Board of Directors of the Advanced Robotics in Manufacturing (ARM) Institute, Leadership Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (IRC) Network. She is a former member of the Board of Pittsburgh Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and Keystone Powdered Metals, and is also the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia.

Keith Alves, Senior VP and Market Manager @ Bank of America

Keith’s responsibilities include leading a team of specialists focused on understanding each client’s unique needs to deliver strategic financial guidance and solutions. Keith’s mission is to help local companies thrive by achieving their business goals, no matter how simple or how complex. Bringing 25 years of experience, Keith joined Bank of America in 2019. Throughout his banking career, Keith has served mid-sized companies throughout the Western PA area to support their commercial banking needs. Keith’s involvement in the community includes past board member of Life’s Work of Western Pennsylvania, serving as a volunteer for Agency Assessments for United Way of Southwestern PA, and he leads his teams in their community involvement in a variety of volunteer and leadership positions supporting area not-for-profit organizations focused on advancing economic mobility, and addressing issues of hunger and homelessness. Keith graduated with a B.S. in Finance from The Ohio State University, and a MBA from Moravian University. Keith currently resides in Franklin Park, PA.

Ben Lawrence, Vice President @ KCF Technologies

Ben has spent the majority of his career helping Silicon Valley-based startups transform their brilliant technologies into real-world sales and profits. With his support, these companies have achieved record profits, gone public, or been acquired by Fortune 500’s. He is the Vice President at KCF Technologies, one of the nation’s fastest growing technology companies.
Laura Evans, Sr. District Manager @ FANUC America
Laura Evans is currently a Sr. District Manager at FANUC America Corporation, with over 30 years’ experience in manufacturing automation and robotics. She started her career as a controls engineer at General Motors, involved with programming spot-welding robots. Since then, she has held various positions at FANUC Robotics including Applications Engineering, Project Management, and Industrial Systems Sales. Laura holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from GMI Engineering & Management Institute and a Master of Science degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from the University of Michigan. She has been involved as an advisory board member for a Pittsburgh-based robotics startup company and a local vocational tech school.

Joe Sciandra, Technical Sales Representative @ NEFF Automation
Based in Pittsburgh, Joe is an Automation Engineer/Technical Sales with NEFF, automation distributors of best-in-class products that include robotics and end effectors, motion control, pneumatics, sensing, engineered solutions, machine vision, safety, and structural components. Sciandra, who studied Manufacturing Engineering has spent the last 3 years helping customers find solutions that increase productivity and quality while reducing costs throughout PA and WV.

John Walker, Sales Manager @ Onexia
John has over 20 years of experience in the manufacturing sector with an emphasis on automation systems related to robotics, precision motion control and vision systems. He has helped develop and apply hardware and custom solutions for OEM and end user customers in the Aerospace, Automotive, Electronics, Food & Beverage, Government/Military, Machine Tool, Medical, Pharmaceutical, Packaging, Textiles and a host of other industries. John is a graduate of Lehigh University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree.

Brent Bregar, Principal Technologist @ Premier Automation
Brent started at Premier Automation in 2011 as an Automation Engineer and assumed the role of Principal Technologist in 2018. Brent has years of experience working in the steel industry and was previously employed by General Motors and a large seamless tube manufacturer. At Premier Automation, Brent successfully engineered many projects including large paper manufacturing systems, steel processing equipment and systems, glass processing lines and systems in the plastics industry.

Rick Lucas, CTO @ ExOne
Rick Lucas has served as the Chief Technology Officer for The ExOne company since June 2012. He has responsibility for the corporation’s R&D investments and manages the New Markets Group. He served in various positions from October 2001 to June 2012 at Touchstone Research Laboratory, where he directed operations and research activities and served as Director of Operations from March 2010 to June 2012. From November 1989 to October 2001, Mr. Lucas managed product development for Lake Shore Cryotronics, a privately held developer of cryogenic temperature sensors and other instrumentation. Rick has more than 25 years’ experience in product development, manufacturing and business development. Set up manufacturing and business operations on over 20 different advanced material products, including four R&D 100 award winners. He currently serves on the governance board for America Makes and serves on the Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory
Committee for the United States Department of Commerce. Also served on America Makes & ANSI Additive Manufacturing Standardization Collaborative (AMSC) committee. Rick holds an A.A.S in Manufacturing Technology, B.A. in Physics as well as an MBA.

**George Allman, Manufacturing Engineering Supervisor @ Liberty Electronics**

George has over 25 years’ experience in manufacturing, engineering, and business development in Military, Aerospace, and commercial markets. He is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, serves as an advisor/mentor to local STEM student groups, and is a frequent speaker and contributor at various events within the Additive Manufacturing community. Prior to his current position as a Manufacturing Engineering Supervisor at Liberty Electronics, George and his wife owned and operated Comtex Industries. George attended the University of Pittsburgh and Robert Morris College in the study of Business Administration and Management, and is a graduate of Clarion University’s Venango Vision Regional Leadership Institute.

**Ken Sabo, Sr. Manufacturing Director @ Concurrent Technologies Corporation**

Mr. Sabo is an accomplished professional with over 25 years of experience in leading diverse design and prototype development projects. For the past six years, Mr. Sabo has led CTC’s Additive Manufacturing (AM) Business Unit. Under Ken’s leadership, CTC is advancing additive manufacturing technologies in the areas of powder bed fusion, hybrid AM, and cold spray. CTC’s AM projects are many and varied, and leverage externally funded programs as well as internally funded research and development. Key focus areas include metal powder recyclability, welding and repair of AM materials, nondestructive evaluation techniques, and characterizing the operating parameters for their in-house AM equipment. Mr. Sabo received his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and his master’s degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

[Digital Track]

[Cyber Security Panel]

**Moderator:**

**Leia Shilobod, CEO @ Intech Solutions**

CEO of InTech Solutions, author of Cyber Warfare: Protecting Your Business From Total Annihilation and The Three Indisputable Rules Every Manufacturer Must Know Before Purchasing Any IT Product or Service. As a cyber security advisor, Leia speaks frequently at venues and events such as Harvard, Pennsylvania State Department events, and Accounting and Manufacturing industry events. Also known as the “IT Princess of Power,” Leia saves mid-market firms from hackers and keeps them compliant by delivering enterprise-class IT security solutions that would otherwise be cost prohibitive.
Panelists:

**Joseph Nardone, President @ Computer Consultant Team, LLC**
Mr. Nardone has been a Business Continuity advisor and Disaster Recovery specialist focused on the manufacturing sector since 1987 when he opened his first IT services firm in New Brighton, PA, just three years after graduating from Carnegie-Mellon University. Regardless of the rapid changes in technology over the past 30 plus years, Joe constantly reminds his staff and his customers that “It’s not about computers”. Joe has written whitepapers and taught seminars on topics like: “How your Business Culture Effects Cyber Risk” and “Building Accountability within your Organization”. As founder and owner of The Computer Consultant Team (CCT) and Expert Data Labs (EDL), Joe and his team are regularly requested to perform business and systems recoveries caused by cyber-attacks, socially engineered hacks, failed mergers and acquisitions, failed technology development projects, and poor business culture. As a business owner and a technologist for over 30 years, Joe acknowledges that Mark Twain was right when he spoke on cybersecurity: “It Ain’t What You Don’t Know That Gets You Into Trouble. It’s What You Know for Sure That Just Ain’t So.”

**Jon Craig, CISO @ Blackbottle Security**
Responsible for providing the global communications, computing, and security infrastructure that enables internal business operations as well as a variety of external hosting and services for business customers. Prior, Jon was senior vice president and chief information officer of Conway E&S. With more than 20 years in the high tech industry, he has also served in various IT leadership positions at Fifthwall Solutions, Marconi, and Black Bottle Security. Jon holds a degree from the University of Richmond.

**Daniel J. Desko, Cybersecurity & IT Risk Advisory Manager @ Schneider Downs**
Dan is a leader in the Risk Advisory services practice at Schneider Downs. Dan is responsible for managing and leading a team of IT audit, security and risk professionals with diverse experience and skill sets for a wide range of clients across multiple industries. Prior to Dan’s career in audit and security, he worked in the technology departments of a Fortune 150 manufacturer and a Fortune 50 healthcare insurance provider. Dan is a seasoned and recognized presenter, speaker, and trainer on IT audit, risk, cybersecurity and other emerging technology risk topics. Dan has presented at numerous local and national ISACA and IIA conferences and has significant experience in providing IT audit, risk and cybersecurity updates to Boards and Audit Committees.

**[Digital Tech Talks]**

**Ravi Venkatraman, President @ Hamiltonian Systems, Inc.**
Ravi is a seasoned principal business executive and technologist focused on Digital Technologies, Enterprise Business Systems, and Cloud Applications. He is the chief architect at Hamiltonian Systems, developing transformative products and services that help companies be data-driven and automate/orchestrate processes. Hamiltonian develops innovative products and solutions using IoT, Big Data, and Machine Learning. Ravi helps companies reach newer levels of maturity and innovation in the supply chain, which companies can bring to their customers.
David Radin, CEO @ MMasters Corporation
David Radin is a serial entrepreneur (including 3 SaaS companies) and long-tenured consultant to companies in manufacturing and other industries specializing in revenue attainment and processes. His book, “Building a Successful Software Business” (O'Reilly) has been called “The Swiss Army-knife of high-tech marketing.” David is a member of the Industrial Engineering Advisory Board for Penn State University (Behrend) and ex-officio member of Oracle’s Manufacturing & Maintenance Advisory Board. A Dale Carnegie Certified Consultant who earned his MBA from Duke (Fuqua) and BS from Yale, David combines analytics with compelling stories & experiences as he speaks for conferences and company meetings, and provides training that transforms organizations and individuals.

TAKTL Ben Bird, Director of IT @ TAKTL
Ben has 5+ years in Manufacturing IT, automation and digitalization Strategy including ERP, QMS, and MEP implementation. Other specializations include Quality & Process Data Harness and Analysis and Technology Adoption.

Dr. Jameela Al-Jaroodi, Associate Professor @ Robert Morris University

Ron Baxter, Director of Technology @ J.V. Manufacturing Co.
Ron Baxter is the Director of Technology at J.V. Manufacturing Co., where he is responsible for the overall planning, organizing, and execution of all information and operation technologies, including investigation and implementation of new technical solutions. After spending nearly three decades in the manufacturing field, Ron understands the challenges and complications of introducing new technology in an industrial environment. He has facilitated machine technology projects totaling over $1,000,000 that have significantly improved the company’s manufacturing capacity. Ron believes in continuous innovation and utilizing the best technology for enabling people to do their best work. Ron has an AA in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Penn State, an AA in Computer and Electronics Technology from ITT, and a BS in Professional Leadership from Duquesne University, where he graduated Suma Cum Laude. Ron is also a Certified Electrician. Ron remains connected to Penn State New Kensington by serving on the board of the engineering program’s Industrial and Professional Advisory Committee, which helps guide the direction of the college’s engineering degrees and ensure student success in the workplace.

Randal McLaughlin, Tool & Die Maker @ J.V. Manufacturing Co.
Randal McLaughlin is a Tool and Die Maker at J.V. Manufacturing Co. where he operates both Sinker EDM and Wire EDM machines. Randal began his career in manufacturing when he attended the precision machinery class at Lenape Technical School. Randal started his 12 years in the Tool and Die industry as a Surface Grinder, then progressed into the Electrical Discharge Machining field where he was responsible for EDM Drill operation. Randal advanced into programming and operating Sinker EDM machines and continues to develop his skills as a Tool and Die Maker.
Jon Santavy, US General Manager @ SimWell

Jon likes turning manufacturing data into actionable decisions. Jon is a partner at SimWell, a fast growth consulting company with expertise in simulation, data science, and optimization. Jon combines his background in simulation and business management to help manufacturers produce more, spend less, and predict their future using their own data.

[Workforce Track]

Kevin Kelly, CEO @ Rhabit

Kevin has a deep background in talent management and technology and has worked in manufacturing environments from airfoils to blood collection. Currently he is one of the founders of Rhabit Analytics, a software company looking to change how companies leverage employee feedback to improve company performance and operations in ways that are accessible to any class of worker.

Dr. Arif Sirinterlikci, University Professor/Assoc. Dean @ Robert Morris University

Arif Sirinterlikci holds BS and MS degrees both, in Mechanical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University (Turkey) and a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Ohio State University. He is also a Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE). He is the recent past Head of Robert Morris University (RMU) Engineering and currently serves as the Associate Dean for Research and Outreach at the RMU School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science. He had served as an officer of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Manufacturing Division in the years of 2003-2011 including its Chair as well as Member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Journals and Manufacturing Education and Research (MER) Community Steering Committees until recently. His interests lie in Reverse Engineering, 3D Scanning/AR/VR/VS, 3D Printing/Additive Manufacturing, Medical Manufacturing, Industrial Automation/Robotics, and Entertainment Technology fields.

Livia Macedo, Strategic Leadership Advisor @ DDI

Mrs. Livia Macedo has 8 years of experience leading global implementation of leadership strategies, leadership development and assessment programs for companies at the cusp of transformation and turnaround. Her unique change management expertise and focus on practices that grow leadership readiness generates solid partnerships and successful results with global clients from United States, Mexico, Brazil, China and India. Livia is passionate about aligning succession strategies to business strategies through acceleration programs, action learning teams and providing one-on-one coaching to leaders of the future.

John Goldschmidt, Director of Product Development @ Qlicket

John's background is with startup product and technology development. For the last two years he has been working on a solution to the employee retention crisis that exists in many blue collar work environments. The result is a communication product he has built alongside many large enterprises who are using the Qlicket solution in their distribution centers, factories, and call centers.
Pamela Golubski, Technical Training Manager @ Proofpoint
An innovative thought leader who has and continues to transform ordinary training into an extraordinary learning experience for employees and customers at Carnegie Mellon University, General Electric, Confluence, Hitachi Rail and now Proofpoint. With 16 years of experience in the engineering, manufacturing, education and software industries, she has a passion for technical, inquiry- and role-based training, process and instructional design, skill and leadership development and has completed extensive research in onboarding. She has a PhD in Instructional Management.

[PDMA Panel]

Moderator
Steve Leonard, Founder and Managing Director @ GrayMatterz
Stephen Leonard is the founder and managing director of GrayMatterz, a consulting concern focused on business, design and innovation strategy and working with a variety of start-ups and companies. He is consulting for Penn State New Kensington facilitating the establishment of the Nextovation™ project that focuses on the revitalization of city of New Kensington through Industry 4.0 technology programming and innovation/entrepreneurial training. Prior to starting GrayMatterz, Steve worked for Arconic at the Arconic Technology Center (ATC) as Senior Innovation Leader and for SC Johnson & Son, Inc., a fast-moving consumer goods company. Steve is currently an adjunct professor for CMU’s Integrated Innovation Institute teaching Design for Manufacture and Sustainability. He holds a Bachelor of Industrial Design from Syracuse University and a Master of Science in New Product Development from Northwestern University.

Panelists
Dr. Joseph Cuiffi, Program Coordinator @ PSU New Kensington
Dr. Cuiffi is the Program Coordinator for the Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology program at Penn State New Kensington. He is a graduate of Penn State with an honors B.S. and a Ph.D. in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, focused on semiconductor processing. Dr. Cuiffi is the former co-founder and VP of Engineering at NanoHorizons Inc., where he built production facilities and commercialized nanomaterial-based products. Dr. Cuiffi then spent 5 years with Draper Laboratory as a Principle Investigator fabricating microfluidic tissue model devices and exploring novel biochemical sensing techniques. His current interests are in Smart Manufacturing and workforce.

Dr. Daragh Byrne, Assoc. Professor @ CMU Integrated Innovation Institute Masters
Dr. Daragh Byrne is an associate professor of CMU’s Integrated Innovation Institute lecturing on designing for the Internet of Things (IoT), IoT ecosystems and programming for online prototypes leveraging human computer interaction. Daragh explores the design of experiential media systems through process-oriented methods and human-centered exploration of emerging technologies. His teaching and research exploration reflects this interest with a current focus on the Internet of Things and tangible interaction design. Both at CMU and in his previous role as an Assistant Research Professor at Arizona State University’s School of Arts, Media and Engineering, he manages the NSF Funded XSEAD project. This has led to a partnership between CMU and the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) to extend this project and deliver a new online platform for arts-integrative scholarship. He also leads the recently launched MakeSchools.org effort to catalog Making in higher education. In addition to the Integrated Innovation Institute, Daragh also holds an Assistant Teaching Professor title with CMU’s School of Architecture.
Mike Holtkamp, Digitalization Account Executive @ Siemens Corporation

Mike Holtkamp is a Digitalization Focus Account Executive for Siemens. He has been with Siemens over 30 years in various Sales, Marketing and Management positions before devoting his energies exclusively to helping companies of all sizes embrace the opportunities of Digitalization and Industry 4.0. Mike has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from WVU and advanced studies in International Business Policy from SUNY and Smart Manufacturing from MIT. Most recently, Mike has been closely engaged with several manufacturing companies, helping them to integrate shop floor automation, manufacturing execution systems, product lifecycle management software, IOT technologies and additive manufacturing. He has also been tasked with training Siemens Digital Industry U.S. salesforce on Digitalization.

Sergio Butkewitsch Choze, former Head of Digital Manufacturing Automation Technology @ Arconic

Dr. Sergio Butkewitsch has over 18 years of experience as an executive, engineer and consultant, serving major automotive, aerospace, energy, defense, oil and gas and R&D companies worldwide. His technical expertise includes modeling and optimization of business impactful systems, statistical analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence and advanced analytics. He is an expert in systems engineering and project management, with application of mathematical models for risk analysis and mitigation, specializing in large-scale deployment of digital intensive systems. He is a founding member of the Brazilian chapter for the INCOSE - International Council on Systems Engineering. Both as a university and corporate instructor, he has taught and lectured extensively in the fields of statistics, machine learning, solid mechanics, multidisciplinary design optimization and management technology.

Matthew Jones, Additive Manufacturing Manager @ AW Miller/Miller 3D

Matthew Jones is the Additive Manufacturing Manager at Miller|3D, a division of A.W. Miller Technical Sales, Inc. The company offers precision metalworking and additive manufacturing equipment across all industries. Jones has 24 years in the manufacturing industry and specializes in complex aerospace, energy, and biopharmaceutical manufacturing processes. As manager of the division he is responsible for sales, engineering, service, and contract performance. Jones holds a B.S. in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering and an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) both from Rochester Institute of Technology)