NEW TECHNOLOGIES: 3D printers are emerging as one of the new technologies that are changing manufacturing. "The growth in 3D printing is impressive," said Robert Contaldi, vice president of West Virginia's Advanced Flexible Manufacturing. "We've seen a dramatic increase in the number of companies that are using 3D printing, and we expect this trend to continue."

Manufacturers generate 68 percent of private sector research and development spending, so improvements in manufacturing are critical to the economy. "The manufacturing industry has a high "multiplier effect." The job multiplier is the increase in employment and income that results from an initial increase in production," said Contaldi. "This multiplier effect is what makes manufacturing a key driver of economic growth."

Our state is fortunate to be situated atop the "Golden Triangle," a region with a high concentration of energy resources. "The state is well-positioned to take advantage of the growth in the energy sector," said Contaldi. "We are seeing an increase in investment in the energy sector, and this is a positive development for the state's economy."