Dear Neighbors:

At Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC), our primary responsibility is to keep our employees and our community safe. I’m honored to take on the new role of Vice President of Manufacturing and I will continue to ensure that the right procedures are in place to deliver on that important responsibility.

Safety is built into everything we do at HSC. We have a wide range of procedures and practices in place to protect our employees and our neighbors. We start with a robust design for our processes and then ensure inspections and maintenance occur on a regular basis. We test our instrumented safety systems and have highly trained operators monitor the process 24/7. We conduct regular audits to ensure safety regulations are followed. Finally, our emergency response professionals train regularly, in partnership with Thomas and Richland Township, to swiftly minimize risk to employees and neighbors in the event of an accident.

Please look inside the newsletter to learn more about the service we have established to notify surrounding neighbors of safety issues.

Beyond safety for our neighbors, HSC has gone to great lengths to become an active participant in our community. As a team, we’re working to increase our volunteer and philanthropic efforts across the entire Great Lakes Bay Region as well as be a good neighbor to those right around the corner. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your feedback on how we can continue to be a great neighbor.

Kind Regards,

Andy Ault, Vice President of Manufacturing
For Ryan Ludwick, the safety and emergency services team leader at Hemlock Semiconductor, every day offers a new chance to keep people safe. Since launching a live fire training program last spring, HSC has had the opportunity to work with a wide range of first responders on how to handle emergencies, and fire preparedness is higher than ever before.

HSC worked with local contractors to create the perfect facility for training. From a container that can simulate fires with people trapped inside a room — complete with doors and ventilation slots that allow trainers to manipulate airflow — the program offers responders exposure to live fire training without having to wait for an emergency.

“We ask departments to provide us with a training outline, and we help them meet their objectives,” Ludwick said. “It’s a great partnership, and oftentimes we are training them on tactics we utilize in our response program as well.”

About 140 HSC employees train at HSC’s live fire facility each year, and all emergency response team members have trained to a National Fire Protection Agency Brigade Level. After ensuring that internal fire training needs were met, HSC began offering the use of its live fire facility to local fire departments that could benefit from the training — free of charge. This opportunity is unique, because it costs a lot to use such facilities and requires travel to get to the relatively few live training sites in the state. Most recently, HSC hosted the Saginaw County Fire Academy for fire and safety training on Monday, March 25.

“Now they’re better prepared to handle fire situations in their communities,” Ludwick said. “We’re pretty proud of that because it’s a unique opportunity for HSC to help first responders and protect residents in the Great Lakes Bay Region.”
On Friday, February 22, eight HSC team members attended the 2019 Go Red for Women event at the Great Hall Conference Center in Midland. The event by the American Heart Association featured speakers discussing lifestyle and hypertension.

“This was an event for women to wear red apparel and learn more about how heart disease could impact any one of us,” said Rachel Swanson, HSC Operation Administration Specialist, who noted it was the third year HSC has sponsored the event. “We were happy to help raise money for such a widespread issue.”

The Inside Scoop on Polysilicon

Have you ever wondered what goes on at HSC? We make polysilicon, a hyper-pure form of the element silicon found in the Earth’s crust. In fact, silicon is the second most abundant element on Earth behind only oxygen!

To make polysilicon, we pump trichlorosilane gas into a reactor fitted with thin silicon starter rods. When we activate our reactors with electricity, the silicon part of the gas molecules sticks to the rods, creating thicker rods of polysilicon.

Afterwards, we break the rods into smaller chunks that are sent to manufacturers around the world and serve as the key building blocks to computer chips and solar panels. We energize and connect our world with the materials needed to harvest solar energy and design the smart phone in your pocket.
Preventing
Our Youth
for a Future in STEM

HSC is passionate about silicon-based technology and has a relentless commitment to be an active leader in the Great Lakes Bay Region. In fact, HSC recently hosted nearly 70 visitors from the Chief Science Officers Program on March 12, representing over 20 regional schools.

The international program started in Arizona and has recently been introduced to the region during the 2017-18 school year through Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU). This year, the middle and high schoolers visited HSC to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and all the fields have to offer.

“The bus tour showed them what HSC actually does and gave them an inside look at our site,” said Sam Setula, HR generalist. “Afterward, students had the opportunity to do experiments, learn about careers at HSC and ask questions.”

Adrianne Cole is Director of STEM at SVSU and the regional lead for the Chief Science Officers Program in Michigan. “Getting behind HSC’s fence line was an important part of our trip. It’s one thing for students to hear about places the size of HSC, but it’s another thing for them to really see that up close and personal,” Cole said. “Having a young, female engineer speak made a positive impression, and multiple people mentioned it to me. Oftentimes we see women in welcome roles and then they turn things over to a male scientist or engineer.”

With the help of our HR co-ops, skilled trades shop, engineers and many HSC employees who volunteered that day, students had the opportunity to not only learn more about STEM, but to practice soft skills such as communication and networking.

Turning Down the Power During the Cold

When the severe cold of a polar vortex hit Michigan in January and Consumers Energy was dealing with a fire at one of its main compressor stations, HSC jumped in to help by significantly decreasing its energy use. As Michigan’s biggest electric user, consuming enough power each day to power both Lansing and Ann Arbor, HSC’s production slowdown played a major role in helping Consumers ensure all its customers continued to have heat. Consumers Energy featured HSC in a Super Bowl ad thanking those who had contributed during the crisis.

“We worked collaboratively with Consumers Energy and other businesses to help stabilize its electrical and natural gas needs so it can serve its customers,” said Mark Bassett, HSC chairman and CEO. “We were happy to do our part to make sure everyone in Consumers Energy’s service area had the natural gas and electricity they needed to stay warm.”

“The Chief Science Officers is only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to dealing with the talent gap in our state,” Setula said. “We’re trying to help bridge the talent gap by doing our part to be an available resource to our community and by visiting high schools and colleges.”