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Knudsen Institute Expands National Advisory Board with Leading Academic Experts

***Dr. Gregory Harris, Dr. Frank Pfefferkorn, & Dr. Steven Schmid Round
Out Our Exemplary Group of Scholars***

Chickasha, Oklahoma – The Knudsen Institute for Applied Research on Surge Theory, a non-profit applied research organization dedicated to growing the U.S. defense industrial base (DIB), proudly announces the addition of three esteemed academic leaders to its National Advisory Board. This expansion reinforces the Institute's commitment to leverage cutting-edge research and academic insight for its mission to restore America's industrial surge capacity.

The newest members include Dr. Gregory Harris from Auburn University, Dr. Steven Schmid from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Dr. Frank Pfefferkorn from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Each brings a wealth of expertise in critical areas of advanced manufacturing technologies and materials science.

They join existing board members Dr. Thorsten Wuest, an expert in smart manufacturing systems, and Dr. Shivakumar Raman, renowned for his contributions to industrial engineering and manufacturing process. Together, these distinguished academics will provide invaluable guidance as the Knudsen Institute pursues its mission of enabling the surge capacity of the U.S. defense industrial base in support of the nation's warfighters.

"We are honored to welcome Drs. Harris, Schmid, and Pfefferkorn to our National Board of Advisors," said Michael Morford, Founder and CEO of the Knudsen Institute. "Their combined expertise will significantly enhance our ability to leverage academic

advancements in support of our efforts to grow the small and medium manufacturer ecosystem and strengthen national security.”

The Knudsen Institute was chartered in 2023 to address the alarming reduction of companies operating in the defense space, a decline of over 40% in the past decade. The Institute is actively reversing this trend through a combination of policy advocacy, workforce development programs, and the application of emerging technologies.

New Academic Members of the National Advisory Board:

- **Dr. Gregory Harris** – Joe W. Forehand/Accenture Distinguished Professor, Auburn University College of Engineering
- **Dr. Steve Schmid** – Belk-Woodward Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- **Dr. Frank Pfefferkorn** – Professor and Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Existing Academic Members:

- **Dr. Thorsten Wuest** – Professor, West Virginia University
- **Dr. Shivakumar Raman** – David Ross Boyd Professor and Morris Pitman Professor, University of Oklahoma

About the Knudsen Institute

The Knudsen Institute for Applied Research on Surge Theory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Chickasha, Oklahoma. The Institute seeks to enable the surge capacity of the U.S. defense industrial base in support of the nation’s warfighters by identifying and integrating small and medium-sized manufacturers at scale through a holistic approach of emerging technology, workforce development, and policy solutions.

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