DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 22, 2022 PGH NTMF/EHD Manufacturing Open Westmoreland Country Club

September 29, 2022 LUNCH & LEARN: November Election Preview Details TBA

> December 2, 2022 PGH NTMA Annual Christmas Party Fox Chapel Golf Club

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APPRENTICE GRADUATION CELEBRATES THE FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING

By Liz Blashock, Pittsburgh Chapter NTMF



The Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA is proud to recognize the 2022 class of apprentice graduates. Congratulations to this year's twenty-eight NTMA apprentice graduates for completing 576 hours of instruction over their four years of study.

This professional accomplishment was marked by our annual graduation at Stratigos Banquet Centre on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Joined by friends, families and employers, the apprentices heard from key note speaker, Mona Pappafava-Ray.

Pappafava-Ray is the owner and CEO of General Carbide in Greensburg, PA as well as the owner and

(Continued on page 12)

NTMA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM: ENROLLMENT OPEN NOW

BY LIZ BLASHOCK, PGH NTMF

Help build a skilled workforce. Improve job satisfaction. Save money.

Open enrollment is now underway for all interested apprentices for the 2022-2023 program year. The 4-year apprenticeship program offers related instruction classes to complement on-the-job training provided by employers. The curriculum supports several metalworking occupations, such as machinists, tool and die makers and CNC specialists.

The NTMA offers hands-on training that is incorporated into the students' theory curriculum. Because the hands-on portion is incorporated into the existing training

(Continued on page 6)

PGH NTMA/MSC APPRENTICE COMPETITION WINNER NAMED

Congratulations to **Brandon Dale Richards** of *Penn State*

Tool & Die who claimed first place in the 2022 PGH NTMA/MSC Apprentice Competition.

The competition, which is held each February,



consists of two parts. Competitors are challenged to complete a timed written exam to assess their manufacturing

(Continued on page 12)

A LOOK INSIDE OUR MEMBER SHOPS: OBERG INDUSTRIES

By Kevin Hartford, president Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA/NTMF

As many of you may recall, years ago the NTMA's Pittsburgh Chapter used to have Shop Tours. It was a way to promote your shop and to share attributes, concerns, challenges and a terrific way to tell your story. Because of the pandemic and intellectual property concerns the shop tours ceased several years ago. In the upcoming issues of our newsletter I will feature a wide variety of our local NTMA shops. This is the first.

As proud and appreciative as I am of the company we started, now known as Kiski Precision, when I think of our Precision Manufacturing industry my mind immediately goes to Oberg Industries.

When I was growing up in

Allegheny Township many years ago, I knew of Oberg. One of my best friend's dad worked there for over 40 years. When we were starting Alle-Kiski Industries (AKI) I talked to another business owner and asked him about Oberg. His immediate response was, "Oberg, the granddaddy of us all!" His tone was one of admiration.

Don Oberg started his company in 1948 and set the bar very high for the precision manufacturing industry. As Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin likes to say, "The standard is the standard." Oberg's standard is world-renowned and was featured in an Inc. Magazine article, "The Lord of Discipline" in 1985. If you haven't read it I encourage you to logon to Oberg's

website and do so.

In today's culture where almost anything goes, it's a fascinating read. One thing in particular caught my attention. It showed the juxtaposition with today's American culture. At the time the article was written, Oberg had 1600 applicants for 30 positions and the selection process was arduous.

There was a reason the A-K Valley was considered the Tool & Die capital of the world. Our area had a large number of highly-skilled precision manufacturers who respected their industry and took pride in their work. Many of them started their careers with Oberg. Currently, most every precision manufacturer in the Pittsburgh

(Continued on page 9)



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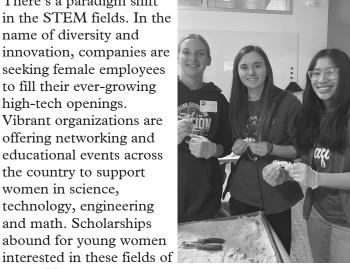
GIRLS EXPLORING ENGINEERING DAY:

TAPPING INTO TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE TODAY

By Molly West, Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA

There's a paradigm shift in the STEM fields. In the name of diversity and innovation, companies are seeking female employees to fill their ever-growing high-tech openings. Vibrant organizations are offering networking and educational events across the country to support women in science, technology, engineering and math. Scholarships abound for young women

study. However, these



opportunities are left unanswered unless that shift begins not just with women, but with girls. Earlier this year, the Southwestern PA BotsIQ team partnered with CCA Techworks and Women in Manufacturing (WiM) to offer Girls Exploring Engineering Day to female high school students. The February event brought teens from southwestern PA

high schools to the Commonwealth Charter Academy in Homestead, Pa. The day was designed to spark the girls' interest in STEM, particularly, manufacturing. "This was the first time that BotsIQ offered a girls-only event, but because of the interest,

excitement, and



positive feedback, it certainly will not be the last! We are looking forward to hosting many more opportunities that introduce young women to a future in manufacturing," said Michel Conklin, executive director of BotsIQ.

The event hosted an impressive group of speakers including prominent women in the industry. Melissa Monarko of Metal Solutions Inc., Barbara Price from the American

(Continued on page 10)





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MEET THE BOTSIQ TEAM



MICHEL CONKLIN Michel is BotsIQ's executive director. She leads the development and expansion of the program and collaborates with BotsIQ's partner organizations (Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling and Machining Association, New Century Careers, and the BotsIQ Executive Committee). Her main focus: to generate youth interest in manufacturing through BotsIQ job-driven, applied learning, STEM projects.

Since becoming the executive director in 2017, Michel has successfully expanded BotsIQ's programming beyond the traditional bot building program to include:

- BotsIQ Academy an extra opportunity for students to increase their technical knowledge through industry-based, online curriculum
- Close the Loop program career planning for low-income students and those with significant barriers to employment

A life-long learner herself, Michel developed her teaching skills as a young girl. She always wanted to help others learn new things. With 18 years of professional experience in education, Michel enjoys raising awareness and interest in manufacturing career pathways through BotsIQ's project-based learning programs.



LIZ BLASHOCK Liz is BotsIQ's program and event coordinator. This is a new position created to support our expanding list of educational manufacturing events for the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA. She supports the planning and coordinating of BotsIQ's

competitions, teacher professional development sessions and student-related trainings throughout the school year. Liz is also the main point of contact for coordinating the Chapter's continuing education events for industry professionals, the Annual Golf Outing and other special events.

In addition, she manages the Chapter's Machinist Apprenticeship Training Program assisting both apprentices and employers throughout the region.

Liz has over 12 years of workforce development experience in the manufacturing industry. She has a passion for helping others and always takes an extra moment to listen and offer advice, a smile or a hug.

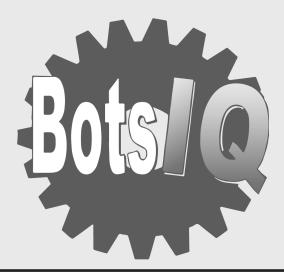
Liz lives in Canonsburg with her husband, Justin and 2 children. In her free time, she loves being around family and planning trips for her family and friends.



MARIA CAMPIERI Maria is BotsIQ's youth services manager. She works with high school career counselors, administrators, BotsIQ teachers, students and parents to share manufacturing career-related opportunities. Through BotsIQ's Close the Loop program, Maria helps students develop individual

career plans and provides career training including resume and cover letter writing, career portfolios and mock interviews. She collaborates with regional workforce investment boards, post-secondary training centers, colleges/universities and manufacturers to find and create these opportunities for BotsIQ students. Maria assists manufacturers in the development of facility tours, job shadowing, co-op and internship programs.

(Continued on page 5)





JOANNA DEHLER JoAnna is BotsIQ's STEM program coordinator. She is responsible for supporting our school and

student relationships and has already had a chance to meet with most of our teachers and students.

JoAnna strengthens BotsIQ's impact and ensures that schools and students have the support and resources they need to be successful in BotsIQ's programs.

A proud Pittsburgh native, JoAnna is passionate about promoting creativity and building connections to the arts in STEM programming. She fell in love with youth programming during her time with Attack Theatre where she served as a full-time teaching artist for four years, teaching dance and creative movement to students at various Propel Charter Schools.

JoAnna also works with the Community Leisure and Learn Department at the University of Pittsburgh where she manages Pitt's Kids, the oldest outreach program at Pitt. She continues to dance professionally with Shana Simmons Dance, and spends much of her free-time exploring art and community events in Pittsburgh.



OULA ABDUL GHANI
Oula is BotsIQ's
teaching fellow, a new
position created to
support our mission
to provide all students
with an opportunity to
explore

manufacturing. She supports
BotsIQ's educational objectives by
designing hands-on activities and
projects. Her projects are aligned
with in-demand technical skills and
allow youth to explore careers in
manufacturing and STEM.
Created as a co-teaching model,
Oula's lessons will not only impact
the students in the classroom, but
also the educator, serving as a
professional development
opportunity for teachers to connect
educational standards to technical
skills needed by industry.

Oula is an educational specialist who loves providing the best learning experiences for all students. She is experienced in developing inclusive and differentiated instruction lesson plans to cater to all abilities. When in her home country of Lebanon, Oula co-founded Kids University, a STEM summer camp program for kids ages 3-12.





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ENROLLMENT (CONT.)



(Continued from page 1)

time, it requires no additional hours. Our proven apprenticeship program provides a comprehensive curriculum that keeps pace with industry standards, and is taught by instructors with industry experience. We will ensure your workers develop the right skills.

Students have the option of

attending classes at one of three convenient locations: Central Westmoreland CTC in New Stanton, Northern Westmoreland CTC in New Kensington and New Century Careers Training Innovation Center on Pittsburgh's Southside.

The deadline for registration is August 29, 2022. Classes will begin the week of September 12, 2022, and meet one evening per week, for 36 weeks. If you do not have a registered apprenticeship with the State of Pennsylvania, you may still enroll your employee(s) and register your program with the state at a later time.

Apprenticeship programs reduce turnover rates, increase productivity and lower the cost of recruitment. Consider sending your apprentices to the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Apprenticeship Program. For more information or to register your employee(s), please contact Liz Blashock at 412-212-6868, via email at: blashock@pghntmf.org, or visit www.pghntma.org.



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NIMS Credentials are offered at no additional cost!

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Year 1 & 2 classes incorporate shop time into theory lessons. Exposure to: Manual Mill, Lathe,

Drill Press, Grinders & More. CONTACT LIZ BLASHOCK FOR MORE INFORMATION (412) 212-6868 or BLASHOCK@PGHNTMF.ORG WWW.PGHNTMA.ORG



THANK YOU & WELCOME

A special thank you to our outgoing board members for their dedication and efforts in building the manufacturing community of southwestern Pennsylvania:

- JOHN MAHOLTZ
- DAN WHITACRE, CYGNUS MANUFACTURING

And welcome to our newest board members:

- KEN BRIGGS, PENN STATE TOOL & DIE CORP.
- MELISSA MONARKO, METAL SOLUTIONS INC.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Join us in welcoming the newest associate member of the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA!

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commercial



lending institution that services exclusively small businesses. We typically service the greater Pittsburgh area, but we have clients throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. At Enterprise we hold ourselves to a high standard of customer service, integrity, and accountability. Our clients are more than income sources to us; they are our friends and business partners, with who we strive to build long-term, lasting relationships.

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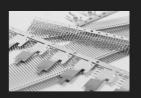














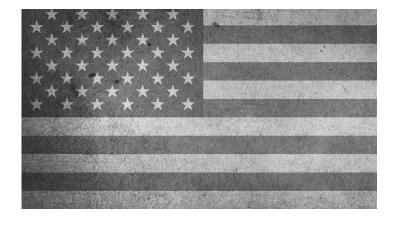


RENEWING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO MANUFACTURING (PART 2)

By Edward J. Grattan II, Frost Todd Brown LLC

This is the second part of a two part article about manufacturing in America in 2022. Edward J. Grattan discusses the impact of the pandemic and the changing landscape of the industry. The article can be read in its entirety on the Pittsburgh Chapter website at: PGHNTMA.org.

As American manufacturers reinvent themselves, the public sector needs to make a commitment to American manufacturers. Currently, the recently passed infrastructure bill together some future form of Build Back Better plan is predicted to create up to a half a million new manufacturing jobs as a result of the U.S. government's renewed investment in our country's infrastructure. These bills also allow for the retraining of workers for manufacturing jobs of the future. In addition to the recently passed and proposed legislation, the U.S. government could help facilitate the transition and growth of American



manufacturing in the following ways:

• Invest in skilled workers. The aforementioned legislation facilitates retraining workers and creating more jobs in this sector. However, the manufacturing industry needs to recruit new generations of skilled workers into this market segment. The government can assist by offering high school students more opportunities in vocational training at a secondary level and by subsidizing associates degrees to attract more young adults to manufacturing. Generally, we as a society need to change perceptions that manufacturing jobs are not good jobs. To the contrary, many skilled labor jobs pay very well and offer many a path to

prosperity without having to take on an outrageous amount of school debt to attend college. The negative stigma attached to such jobs needs to be removed and a focus should be placed on celebrating American



manufacturing and pride in US-made goods and services.

(Continued on page 15)

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OBERG (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

Chapter is very busy. Everyone is looking for skilled employees. But, instead of having 1600 applicants for these positions as Oberg did 40 years ago, we have an awfully limited talent pool.

Fast forward to today and Oberg has:

- Over 700 skilled employees across five advanced manufacturing facilities
- 450,000+ sq. ft. of manufacturing space
- \$50 million in capital/equipment investments over last 5 years
- 5 U.S.-based manufacturing facilities with rapid access to capital
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 13485:2016, and AS 9100 Rev. D certified, ITAR and FDA registered
- Locations in Pittsburgh, Chicago and Connecticut
- International sales and support
- 90 multi-axis machining centers
- 55 stamping presses

Rich Bartek is Oberg's CEO and has been with the company for 17 years. He is very proud of the culture within the precision manufacturer. Their employees have an impressive length of service and vast experience in our industry. They still have the "Culture of Perfection" that Don Oberg created decades ago. Along with their team approach and training program, their people are the primary reason for the company's decades of success. Rich also takes pride in their approach of treating their customers as "true partners." They do their best to keep it simple by doing what they say they're going to do and being responsive to their partners' needs. There is a "relentless focus on "Quality and Service." One of the ways they do this is by leveraging a full-service model from engineering design to product.

The company is process-driven and has invested heavily in the latest technology and automation. If you ever have an opportunity to tour the plant you'll be quite impressed, as I was many years ago, by their attention to detail and the cleanliness of their facilities.

Other aspects that Oberg takes great pride in include:

- They are privately held and family-oriented since their inception.
- They have diversified in 5-7 major markets

including: medical, energy aerospace & defense and of course, all things tool & die.

- Nowadays, Oberg is only invested in the USA. Rich Bartek believes that, "there is no need to invest in low-cost countries because we have the best workforce in the world right here in our backyard!"
- Oberg is becoming even more diversified by getting involved in the electrical vehicle market, manufacturing the latest surgically assisted medical products (robotics), adding capabilities (3D printing).
- Growth will be linked to the products and services that support environmentally friendly markets (converting plastic products to metal).

Finally, the true legacy of Oberg over the years is how many companies "have spun out of Oberg." In fact, there is a list of them hanging in their offices. Currently, more than 50 companies are owned by those who began their careers at Oberg. That's a tremendous tribute to "The Granddaddy Of Us All."



GIRLS EXPLORING (CONT.)



(Continued from page 3)

Association of University Women, Claire Niederriter a biomedical engineer from DePuv Synthes, Maddie Reineberg a design engineer at JV Manufacturing and Stephanie Stoughton an environmental engineer from Domtar all clearly illustrated what success looks like for women in engineering and manufacturing fields. The students learned about collegiate-level engineering programs, and then tried their hand at the skills used in STEM careers.

Student participants built sewable circuits and programmed collaborative robots. The girls learned about metal castings and sand molding as well as the basics

of plastic injection and mold making through interactive lessons. Tech-savvy women led the instructional sessions and offered insight into engineering and manufacturing careers that may be outside the scope of the students' usual biology and chemistry classes.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of women in the STEM fields has grown 20 percent since 1970, but females still only represent about 28 percent of STEM workers in the United States. With STEM occupations projected to grown by 10.5 percent between 2020 and 2030 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics) America will need qualified workers to fill these well-paying

positions—particularly those in the manufacturing sector. Many believe the key to future success starts with training and exposure that begins long before young people enter the job market.

Programs like Girls
Exploring
Engineering Day
can pique a girl's
interest in an
otherwise
unconsidered career
field. Hands-on
activities can



highlight undiscovered talents. And, sessions like this can be a gateway for developing an untapped workforce.



NCC TO HELP WORKERS, COMPANIES ADOPT DIGITAL LEARN-ING WITH NEW GRANT

New Century Careers is the recipient of a \$200,000 Richard King Mellon Foundation Career Readiness for All Ages Grant. New Century Careers will use the grant to help manufacturing sector workers and companies adopt digital learning.

This Foundation investment area focuses on advancing the education, training and development of adults in the region to help all adults gain the skills and training necessary to succeed in the evolving economy. It also seeks to help build and support people-centered workforce systems, career pathways and pipelines to employment that accommodate the many different ways adults map their careers.

The Foundation prioritized submissions that enabled residents to benefit from integrated education and workforce development systems; build 21st century skills; complete applied, work-based learning; and develop their own career pathways.

"The mission of New Century Careers parallel's the Foundation's goals," said Neil Ashbaugh, NCC president and CEO. "We are grateful for this substantial grant to digitize sections of our curriculum to augment our preapprenticeship and credentialing training to better prepare students to adapt to the technology of the advanced manufacturing workplace."

NCC will use a platform developed by Rewyndr, a Pittsburgh-based company that provides a mobile web application for visual work instructions and remote training for workers performing physical work. "The advantages of the platform will significantly enhance our content, lower the entry-level skill required for participants, accelerate learning and enable feedback from remote site coaches and trainers," Ashbaugh noted.

NCC also will pilot a Digital Learning Alliance to help an extended network of employers begin to adopt digital training. "SMEs and their workers struggle to adopt and leverage technology for growth," Ashbaugh explained. "As NCC's competence in digital instruction grows, we can also offer support for member companies to transition their training content to digital formats," he added.

World-Class Industrial Network (WIN), a project development and management consulting firm with interdisciplinary experts that enable clients to tackle problems and seize opportunities by looking beyond traditional solutions, will manage the projects. The WIN Digital Solutions team has collaborated with Rewyndr for several years.

"Helping our adult workers to compete successfully for high-quality careers in the evolving economy requires that we find and deploy the most effective ways to deliver skills training," said Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. "We are pleased to support New Century Careers in their efforts to do exactly that."

About New Century Careers: New Century Careers is a nonprofit manufacturer and technical skills development organization serving the Southwestern Pennsylvania region through inclusive access to technical training opportunities while helping employers find and develop technicians seeking purpose, passion and success in the workplace. www.ncsquared.com

About the Richard King Mellon
Foundation: Founded in 1947, the Richard
King Mellon Foundation is the largest
foundation in Southwestern Pennsylvania,
and one of the 50 largest in the world. The
Foundation's 2020 year-end endowment was
\$3.1 billion, and its Trustees in 2020
disbursed \$130 million in grants and Program
Related Investments. The Foundation focuses
its funding on six primary program areas,
delineated in its 2021-2030 Strategic Plan.

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COMPETITION (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

knowledge. Additionally, they are judged on the precision of both a manual mill part and a manual lathe part. They are given never-before-seen blueprints with a complete toolbox and materials to create these machined parts. They are then tasked with producing as many of the part features as they can within a maximum of four hours of work per project.

Glenn Walter Robaugh, III, also of Penn State Tool & Die Corporation, was awarded second place while Dominick Rucker of CP Industries Holdings Inc. placed third.

The winners were named at the annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet at Stratigos Banquet Centre on June 8, 2022.



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GRADUATION (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)
president of Prema Tech
Advanced Ceramics in
Worcester, MA and owner
of Advanced Silicon
Carbide Materials in Kauai,
HI. The entrepreneur spoke
about how greatly
apprentices are needed and
wanted in the Pittsburgh
region and commended
them for pursuing careers in
manufacturing.

The NTMA recognized graduate Jake Detman of IMI Critical Engineering PBM for his perfect attendance at all 144 classes over the four years of the apprenticeship program.

The NTMA apprentice program has been providing related instruction for area apprentices for nearly 50 years with consistently strong curriculum and topnotch offerings.

A special thank you to the instructors for their hard work, and the families, friends and companies who support their apprentices on this path to journeyman.

2022 NTMA APPRENTICE GRADUATES

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CTC

Brian R. Baker

Precision Defense Services Industries

Terry Matthew Eisele, Jr.

Scientific Tool Co.

Walker Arthur Kelly

Precision Defense Services Industries

Nathan L. Korber

Irwin Automation, Inc.

Dakotah A.M. Lackey

TDI Kratos

Sarah Elizabeth Lenhart

Westinghouse

Nathan Cole Maywood

Precision Defense Services Industries

Jonathan Edward McKenzie

Irwin Automation, Inc.

Noah J. Orischak

EDM Services

Brandon Dale Richards

Penn State Tool & Die Corporation

Glenn Walter Robaugh, III

Penn State Tool & Die Corporation

Kevin John Rose

Technimark

Edward Schimizzi

Latrobe Machining Corporation

Alexander D. Stape

Versa-Fab, Inc.

Nothern Westmoreland CTC

Joseph F. Bifulco

Aerotech, Inc.

Alexander Foust

Hamill Manufacturing Company

Brady McBrien

Aerotech, Inc.

Kurt Messenger

Chelsea Building Products

John Naulder

Aerotech, Inc.

Christopher L. Puzak

Specialized Welding, Inc.

Austin Scherba

JK Tool Inc.

Charles W. Shiring

Kiski Precision Industries

Andrew Siarkowski

Chelsea Building Products

Dennis J. Yerkey

Superbolt, Inc.

NCC Training Innovation Center

Jake Detman

IMI Critical Engineering PBM

Shaun Johnson

VEKA, Inc.

Brian Kuczynski

VEKA, Inc.

Vincent Vattimo

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Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Apprenticeship Program

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 29

LET US TRAIN YOUR APPRENTICES TO BE JOURNEYMAN MACHINISTS

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We look forward to training your workforce!



For more information, visit www.pghntma.org or call: 412-212-6868, e-mail: blashock@pghntmf.org

Additional information is available in the newsletter beginning on page 1.



The PGH NTMF/EHD Manufacturing Open AUGUST 22, 2022

Westmoreland Country Club

9:00 AM - Registration 11:00 AM - Shot Gun Start 4:00 PM - Cash Bar, Networking, Cookout & Awards

Since 1996, the Pittsburgh Chapter's signature golf outing has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that go directly to manufacturing education in our region through programs like

BotsIQ and the Apprentice Training Program.

We're committed to inspiring and educating the next generation of our workforce to keep manufacturing strong in Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania and in America.

Want to take your support of the southwestern PA manufacturing industry to the next level? We have additional sponsorship opportunities available.

RED LEVEL:

\$1500 Listed on Promotional Materials / Logo on Banner / Listed on PGHNTMA.org / Listed in Precision Pittsburgh / Tee Box Sign

WHITE:

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BLUE LEVEL:

\$250 Tee Box Sign

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COMMIT (CONT.)

- Provide tax incentives to companies to produce American goods in America. The US government must engage in real tax reform that incentivizes companies to stay at home. Keeping manufacturing operations in the United States allows for job growth in the manufacturing sector and more importantly it limits certain supply chain disruptions when products are made at home. The supply chain disruptions faced by our country became very evident during the early months of the pandemic and continue to persist now nearly two years into the pandemic.
- Provide American loans to small and medium sized manufacturing operations. If our country is to renew its commitment to American manufacturing, then it would help if the U.S. government could offer more SBA type loans, similar to the loans seen under the pandemic relief bills, that allow for companies to borrow money at a very low interest rate over a long horizon. These loans will help companies retool their factories and prepare for long-term change and growth without creating a substantial cash crunch on such company's balance sheet. American manufacturing is unlikely

to reach the heights that it once achieved in the early 1900s and most certainly some older manufacturing industries will not be revived.

However, America's renewed commitment to manufacturing along with industry reforms can allow for a competitive environment for American goods and services, an increase in stable, good paying jobs, and security for America's supply chain.

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