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Inland Empire Manufacturing Industry Celebrates 5th Annual Summit

ONTARIO, CA (April 26, 2016) The 5th Annual Inland Empire Manufacturers' Summit, an educational event geared towards local industrial companies, attracted over 500 attendees representing the region's manufacturing industry today at the Ontario Convention Center. Presented each year by the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE), the Annual Manufacturing Summit offers a day of discussion on important topics for manufacturers in the Inland region, promotes rewarding careers in manufacturing and highlights manufacturers with innovative solutions to current challenges faced by the local industry. One of the largest manufacturing events in the state since its inception in 2012, the Annual Summit provides an opportunity for manufacturers across the Inland Empire to leverage resources, share best practices and to collaborate on solutions to common issues of concern.

"We manufacture so much here in the Inland Empire, and we all have the same concerns in our respective businesses," said MCIE Chairperson Pearl Virgen. "The Annual Summit provides that forum of collective thinking and sharing of insights."

The Inland Empire is a prime location for manufacturing businesses to thrive, having close access to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and to the rest of the country, a highly skilled workforce and the support of private and public entities ready to work with manufacturers.

Eleven breakout sessions led by experts covered a wide-range of issues concerning the manufacturing community, including: current industrial marketing trends and how to effectively implement marketing automation for business growth, how to access funds provided by federal

and state programs designed to build a better workforce, tactics for reducing energy and operating expenses, utility rebate and incentive programs available to Inland Empire manufacturers, reshoring's effect on the global supply chain and ways to support it, lean manufacturing and continuous improvement strategies, managing environmental compliance issues, resources available to help manufacturers expand into international markets, implementing project management software, and strategies to promote a positive work environment among employees. A special breakout for college students discussed the rewarding careers available in manufacturing. One of the goals of the Summit is to highlight the skilled jobs available in the manufacturing industry.

“Manufacturing is coming back and the focus is in advanced technologies,” said Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D., President of Chaffey College. “We need to think smart and be smart, with a smart workforce to understand how these technologies work.”

The new Industrial Technical Learning Center, or InTech Center, developed by Chaffey and affiliated institutions, under the federal TAACCCT grant, are responding to this need by providing the critical skills necessary to meet the demands of the industry and close the skills gap. “We need a new way to involve manufacturers and the InTech Center does that,” said InTech Coordinator Ann Marie Allen.

Attendees of the 2016 Summit enjoyed the locally made products displayed in the “Made in the Inland Empire” exhibit hall, including a life-like dinosaur provided by manufacturer Garner Holt Productions (GHP), a working 3-D printer, a variety of drinks displayed by Cott Beverages, and more. Exhibitor booths, for vendors sponsoring the event, provided guests time for networking. Students from the Upland High School Regimental Pipe Band opened the ceremony with bagpipes and drums leading in a full color guard The Band of Brothers, Post 12034 “Honor Guard Team.” Dorothy Rothrock, President of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association (CMTA) hosted the mainstage events as the 2016 Summit emcee.

This year's Summit keynote speakers included acclaimed author and international speaker Ryan Holiday and luncheon keynote Garner Holt, of GHP, the internationally recognized leader in the design and manufacturing of animatronics. The “E=MC2 Awards,” a special ceremony held

during each Annual Summit, recognized three local manufacturers with innovative solutions in the areas of employment, energy efficiency and marketing. Trophies were presented to Newport Cottages for innovation in workforce development, Phenix Technology for innovation in marketing and Celestica for innovation in efficiency.

The Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) was incorporated as a 501c (3) non-profit organization in 2006 and celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The MCIE works in collaboration with Chaffey College, San Bernardino Community College District, Riverside Community College, 8 other regional colleges and the San Bernardino County and Riverside County Workforce Development Boards to create programs that will provide training to hundreds of manufacturing and distribution firms in the region. Major sponsors of the 5th Annual Summit include the California Community College District, San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board, Chaffey College, Brithinee Electric, CMTC, San Bernardino Community College District, the City of Ontario, Riverside County Workforce Development Center, ICR Staffing Services , California Bank & Trust, RAMS, IE Commuter, Community Bank, US Bank and Barney & Barney.

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