



Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

March 2025 Newsletter

Manufacturers Tour Walker Manufacturing Group

Over thirty MCIE members and manufacturers attended the presentation and tour of Walker Manufacturing on March 19. Corporate Vice President and General Manager Kimberly Clarke shared insights into the company's growth over the years and its advancements in production systems. As one of Toyota's earliest domestic manufacturing partners, Walker Manufacturing was guided by founder Mr. Obo-San in developing excellence in lean manufacturing processes. Recognized as a gold-seal manufacturing plant on the West Coast, the company remains committed to continuous improvement, efficiency, and innovation.



Short presentations on programs and student opportunities were presented by Paula Barrera, Job Developer with Norco College, and Rosalinda Rivas, Apprenticeship Director of Moreno Valley College. In addition, Matthew Mena, Executive Director of IEGO, discussed survey data on the hiring and training needs of manufacturers.

Pacific Steel breaks ground on California's first new steel mill in 50 years

On March 5, state officials joined local leaders and private sector partners to celebrate the groundbreaking of Pacific Steel's 500,000 square foot Mojave Micro Mill, the first steel mill to be built in California in more than 50 years.

In addition to being one of the cleanest mills in the world, this project is also expected to catalyze job opportunities and economic development throughout the Kern County region. Nearly 700 jobs are expected to be created, including electricians, millwrights, welders, computer systems operators and specialists in automation, controls and robotics.

Upcoming Events:

March 28, 2025: Industry Partners and Awards Breakfast

As a strong advocate for industry-education collaboration, MCIE encourages manufacturers and other industry professionals to take part in Norco College's 2025 Industry Partners & Awards Breakfast and Career Education Industry Advisory Meetings on March 28, 2025!

This is a great opportunity to share insights, shape workforce training, and connect with the next generation of talent in fields like manufacturing, engineering, business, IT, and more. Your input is crucial in ensuring programs align with real-world industry needs in manufacturing.

For more information visit: <https://www.norcocollege.edu/academicaffairs/cte/ipb/index.html>

April 17, 2025: Plant Tour of Ventura Foods

Ventura Foods is a private food company that specializes in condiments under three platforms: Dressings/Sauces/Mayo (DSM), Margarine and Oils.

The plant tour will take you on an overview of the process from receiving to batching to production to distribution. Limited to manufacturers.

Email Sarah Johnson for reservations:

sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com



May 8, 2025: Two Plant Tour Options a Westfall-Technik in Riverside

Westfall Technik is a global leader in plastics manufacturing solutions. Take a tour of their cutting-edge facility to experience firsthand their commitment to innovation, sustainability, and quality processes.

Limited to Manufacturers. Morning tour and afternoon tour.

-Wear closed toed shoes (avoid slippery shoes). -If you have safety glasses, please bring them.

Email Sarah Johnson for reservations:

sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com



June 2, 2025: 2nd Annual Manufacturing Charity Golf Tournament

Save the Date and Support Manufacturing and Manufacturing Careers!

This event is a fun and pivotal fundraising occasion where sponsorships will play a crucial role. As a respected 501c3 organization, your support would significantly enhance our efforts to champion our industry and the communities it serves. Through your participation, we will provide a minimum of five scholarships to students who are enrolled in manufacturing pathway programs.



The event will return to the beautiful Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Pkwy, Victorville and include contests, prizes, lunch and scholarship awards.

For more information: visit www.mfgcouncilie.com/golf after March 4th.

Economic Updates:

- (Mar 20) – Applications for US unemployment benefits were little changed last week at a relatively low level that underscores a resilient labor market. Initial claims increased by 2,000 to 223,000 in the week ended March 15, according to Labor Department data. (Bloomberg)
- (March 25) – South Korea's Hyundai Steel, will invest \$5.8 billion along with Hyundai Motor Group to build a steel plant in the U.S. state of Louisiana with an annual capacity of 2.7 million tonnes, the company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. Hyundai Steel's proposed new U.S. steel plant is part of Hyundai Motor Group's plan to invest \$21 billion in the United States. (Reuters)

Membership Updates:

- Interested in hosting an MCIE facility tour? Contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com for more information.
- Interested in exclusive articles and content on business and policy topics? Join the conversation by following us on our [LinkedIn](#) page and other social media platforms, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or check out our [Linktree](#)!
- The MCIE is committed to the development of our workforce at every stage, including getting young girls and boys interested in invention, creation, and STEM disciplines. If you know of a library or school near you that might be interested in receiving a book donation to inspire our next generation of young manufacturers, contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com with your suggestion.

Additional Resources:

Tax Credits: [California-Competes-Tax-Credit-Fiscal-Year-2024-25.pdf](#)

Wind & Fire Disaster Assistance: [California wildfires | U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

Small Business Loan Program: [7\(a\) loans | U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

Plan to Become a Member in April:

- To continue to receive notices of meetings and events.
- For priority inclusion in member events and invitations to sponsor manufacturers' only events.

For more information on benefits and pricing, visit

<https://mfgcouncilie.com/membership>

Current Members, please watch for your annual dues renewal notice sent to your email address.

Have a profitable April!

Molly

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