



Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

September 2025 Newsletter

October 3rd is Manufacturing Day!

MFG-Day is celebrated annually on the first Friday in October, with events continuing throughout the month and beyond. MFG Day is a national grassroots movement that demonstrates the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers. Thousands of companies and educational institutions nationwide are invited to open their doors to students, parents, educators and community leaders.

Visit mfgday.com for national and local events.

Our local manufacturer, BlueScope Coated Products, in Rancho Cucamonga, will be offering tours. Register at: <https://mfgday.com/events/mfgday25-bluescope-coated-products-4/>

Tour of Phenix Technology, Inc.

Co-Hosted with Women in Manufacturing California Chapter



Tuesday, October 21, 2025 | 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Location:

Phenix Technology, Inc.
3453 Durahart Street Riverside, CA

[REGISTER HERE](#) Space is limited.

Join Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire and Women in Manufacturing California Chapter for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Phenix Technology, Inc., a globally respected manufacturer of American-made fire helmets with over 50 years of heritage and innovation. Attendees will explore the production floor where iconic products like the First Due Fire Helmet are brought to life—designed by firefighters, for firefighters.

You'll gain insight into how Phenix integrates real-world first responder experience, Lean Manufacturing principles, and a people-first culture into every stage of design and production. Discover why Phenix was named 2025 Employer of the Year and how its values of craftsmanship, inclusion, and continuous improvement shape its workplace and products.

This is more than a tour—it's a firsthand look at how tradition, innovation, and impact come together to create Better People. Better Products. Better World.

We can't wait to see you there!

Reserve Your Seat! Join Us for Some Holiday Cheer – MCIE Style!

Holiday Mixer: Jingle & Mingle – Made in the IE!

👉 [RSVP HERE](#)

📅 **Thursday, November 13**

🕒 **5:30 – 7:30 PM (PST)**

📍 **Left Coast Brewing Distillery Smokehouse – Ontario**

980 North Haven Avenue, Suite 100

Ontario, CA 91764

Enjoy an evening of industry networking, craft beer, festive bites, and holiday cheer as we close out the year together.

Festivities Include:

Best Holiday Outfit Contest

Theme: Santa Hats + Safety Glasses Encouraged

Great Conversations with Regional Manufacturers & Industry Partners

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Support the celebration while showcasing your company to the Inland Empire's manufacturing leaders!

Every sponsorship directly supports MCIE's mission of advancing manufacturing and creating opportunities for the next generation of workers in the Inland Empire.

Contact: Sarah Johnson, sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com.

Celebrating Manufacturing & the Future Workforce



On Thursday, September 18, the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) and Women in Manufacturing California Chapter (WiM CA) teamed up for an

unforgettable evening at Topgolf Ontario.

With over 100 companies represented, the energy in the room was undeniable. Leaders from across the region came together to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the strength of our Inland Empire manufacturing community.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presence of students and faculty from Cal Poly Pomona. Their excitement and curiosity reminded us all why investing in the next generation of skilled workers is so critical. Manufacturing is more than an industry—it's the foundation for innovation, growth, and opportunity in our region.



A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors who made this event possible. Your commitment ensures that we can continue to fuel the future of manufacturing here in the IE.

Thank You To Our Sponsors



Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire Presents at Engaging HR Network Event and Lab Tour at Moreno Valley College



Maroun Nehme of Klein Educational Systems demonstrates the curriculum on automated systems using pressurized air on a machine that allows students to customize and program functionality in coursework at Moreno Valley College.

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) co-hosted a dynamic and well-attended HR Network event at the newly opened industrial training lab at Moreno Valley College (MVC). The event welcomed HR professionals, educators, and industry leaders for a morning of networking,

presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and recognition of collaborative efforts in workforce development.

The morning began with a breakfast buffet and informal networking in the Welcome Center of MVC's beautifully designed new campus building. The program continued with a joint presentation by MCIE's Sandra Sisco and John P. Beall, which generated strong engagement from attendees.

Dr. Rudy Besikof, President of Moreno Valley College gave remarks at the meeting and spoke to the college's strong commitment to partnerships with industry. The enthusiasm carried through to the lab tour, where attendees stayed to experience live demonstrations of industrial automation systems from Joe Ray and Maroun Nehme of Klein Education Systems, exploring how they are used in student curriculum. Drawings for prizes were held during the tour to thank participants who remained for the full experience.

MCIE and MVC also presented four awards during the event to recognize outstanding contributions to workforce training and regional collaboration. Honorees included:

- Rudy Besikof, President, Moreno Valley College
- Eric Anthony, Dean of Instruction, Career & Technical Education, Moreno Valley College
- Rosalinda Rivas, Apprenticeship Director, Moreno Valley College
- Eduardo Cruz, Senior Human Resources Manager, Louis Vuitton

MCIE extends its gratitude to the staff of Moreno Valley College and the HR Network Group for their partnership and support, and to all attendees who contributed to a successful morning of insight and innovation.

Early Bird Registration is Open!

MCIE Charity Golf Events 2026



Grab your foursome at the discounted rate before it's gone and help fuel the next generation of manufacturing talent! Be sure to set aside sponsorship dollars in your 2026 budget to make an even bigger impact.

Early Bird Special: Register your foursome by **November 30, 2025** for just **\$600** (regularly \$800).

A portion of the proceeds directly funds scholarships for students pursuing manufacturing careers through technical trade schools, apprenticeships, and career pathway programs.

Register Here:

[June 1, 2026 – 3rd Annual Manufacturing Charity Golf Event](#)

[October 26, 2026 – 1st Annual Southern Inland Empire Manufacturing Golf Classic](#)

This is more than golf—it's about investing in the next generation of skilled workers who will power the future of our industry.

Foursomes are limited, and the early bird rate won't last—secure your spot today and make a difference!

Ready to make a difference?

Join the Manufacturers' Council – Be Part of the Movement Shaping the Future of Manufacturing in the Inland Empire

Become a Member Today at <https://mfgcouncilie.com/membership>

Save more when you pay 2 years in advance.

Since 2005, the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) has supported a thriving manufacturing economy by securing over \$50 million in workforce training, production innovation, and industry growth.

With nearly 95,000 manufacturing jobs in our region and continued growth projected in 2025, MCIE is committed to building a skilled, sustainable workforce and shifting public perception about the importance of manufacturing in our community.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MCIE connects manufacturers with education, workforce programs, and regional resources, while promoting career pathways for the next generation of talent. Now is the time to get involved. Become a member and help drive real impact.

Interested in hosting an MCIE factory tour? Contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com for more information.

New Member Spotlight: American Business Bank



American Business Bank (ABB), based in downtown Los Angeles, opened a Loan Production Office in Downtown Riverside in September 2025. The office is led by David Valenzuela, Regional Vice President, and Michael Gialluly, Vice President & Senior Relationship Manager, with over 40 years of combined experience in middle market banking and strong ties to the Riverside business community. They are well-equipped to serve the region's privately held businesses.

 **Learn more:** americanbb.bank

Economy and Regulations:

- (Sep 5) – The national unemployment rate in July rose from 4.2% to 4.3% according to the Labor Department. Employers added 22,000 jobs last month. Healthcare led the increase, offset by losses in federal, mining, quarrying, and oil/gas extraction sectors. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- (Sep 17) – The Federal Open Markets Committee made its first cut since December 2024, reducing its benchmark rate 25 basis points from 4.25% to

4.00%. There are three more opportunities for the FOMC to meet this year, and soft indications have been made that the committee could make up to 2 more cuts this year, a departure from their policy of holding rates steady for most of the year. Meanwhile, inflation metrics for August were announced the week before the meeting by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with inflation rising to 2.9% from 2.7% month over month. *(CBS)*

- (Sep 19) – California’s unemployment rate remained flat at 5.5%, gaining 3,800 jobs in August. Healthcare and Leisure/Hospitality led the gains, losses came across government sectors, while Manufacturing lost 1,400 jobs, bringing the rolling 12 month count to a net loss of 16,900 jobs. *(California EDD)*
- (Sep 13) – California lawmakers voted to ban a group of chemicals known as PFAS, which are often called "forever chemicals," in cookware. The move has pulled in celebrity chefs on one side and environmentalists, including actor Mark Ruffalo, on the other. The proposal, Senate Bill 682, would prohibit PFAS in cookware, cleaning products, dental floss, ski wax, food packaging and certain children's products. Lawmakers approved the bill in a 41-19 vote, late on Friday, with 20 assembly members not voting. The bill quickly passed amendments in the Senate and is now headed to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk for his signature. *(CBS News)*
- (Sep 15) – Some 77% of the manufacturers plan to increase their AI investments over the next year, according to a July survey by KPMG of 183 AI manufacturing leaders across eight countries. Startups like California beauty manufacturer and brand Prose, pet food maker Spot & Tango, and home battery producer FranklinWH are among the companies embracing AI in new manufacturing facilities that they've recently opened. *(Business Insider)*
- (Sep 24) – LevelBlue, a leading provider of managed security services, strategic consulting and threat intelligence, today released its 2025 Spotlight Report: Cyber Resilience and Business Impact in Manufacturing. The report explores how the manufacturing industry is protecting itself from increasingly sophisticated attacks as more organizations integrate artificial intelligence (AI) for efficiency, optimized processes and enhanced automation. *(Automation.com)*
- (Sep 22) - Singapore has shown the world that automation can revive manufacturing even in high-cost economies — boosting output by 20%, improving productivity, and creating a highly skilled workforce. Inland Empire manufacturers face similar pressures, but success doesn’t require massive investment. Even smaller manufacturers can start by: **(1)** automating repetitive admin tasks, **(2)** adopting entry-level robotics, **(3)** using sensors for predictive maintenance, **(4)** investing in workforce upskilling, and **(5)** starting small and scaling smart. Together, these steps can help local firms compete globally on quality, reliability, and speed. Want to see how Germany’s apprenticeship model

and Inland Empire resources like CMTC, ETP, and Moreno Valley College fit into the picture? Read the [full article on our blog](#).

Have a profitable October!

Molly

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