



Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

October 2025 Newsletter

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



Holiday Mixer: Jingle & Mingle

[RSVP NOW](#)

Thursday, November 13

5:30 – 7:30 PM (PST)

Left Coast Brewing Distillery Smokehouse – Ontario

980 North Haven Avenue, Suite 100

Ontario, CA 91764

Kick off the holiday season with an evening of industry networking, craft beer, festive bites, and holiday cheer with the Inland Empire manufacturing community 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

RSVP NOW

Make Your Company Part of the Story! Be a Sponsor!

Don't miss your chance to get your brand in front of the Inland Empire's top manufacturing leaders—limited sponsorship opportunities are still available! Every sponsorship directly supports MCIE's mission of advancing manufacturing and creating opportunities for the next generation of workers in the Inland Empire.

For Sponsorships - contact: Sarah Johnson, sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com

View sponsorship details at:

<https://mfgcouncilie.com/holiday-mixer-jingle-and-mingle/>

Celebrating Manufacturing Month!

Manufacturers Tour Phenix Technology Inc.



Melisa Sanchez, COO of Phenix Technology, Inc., is shown speaking to one of the tour groups.

On October 21st, the Manufacturers' Council along with Women in Manufacturing (WiM), held 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 explored the production floor where iconic products like the First Due Fire Helmet are brought to life—designed by firefighters, for firefighters. A highlight at the Phenix Technology plant is the very engaging museum of firemen's helmets, from all over the world, dating back to the mid-1800s. The plant has incorporated Lean Manufacturing in their management system.

Wallace Brithinee presented a plaque to Angel Sanchez, CEO of Phenix Technology Inc., for his accommodating the tours, but also for his appointment to the state Workforce Development Board, in Sacramento, and commitment to seek recognition for the local region.

STEPCon 2025



Eric Schmidt, President of Exquadrum, Inc. is shown speaking at STEPCon.

The 27th annual STEPCon conference, held on Thursday, October 23, featured its third session dedicated specifically to school counselors, drawing about 100 attendees. Eric Schmidt, president of Exquadrum, Inc.—a rocket manufacturing and testing company based in Victorville, CA—delivered the keynote address and led two breakout sessions on Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing. Joining him was Jonathan Mills of Aranda Tooling in Chino, CA, representing another manufacturer from the MCIE. Both breakout sessions were facilitated by Phil van Haster, Dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at California Baptist University, who also presented at each session.

MCIE Manufacturers Speak to Jr High Students

Thanks to four of our MCIE manufacturers for helping younger students learn that there are great careers in manufacturing. As kids start to think about careers in 10th or 11th grade, letting them know about what manufacturing is and does, at the Jr. High level, plants seeds that may yield more workers for our industry in the future.

The STEPCon event, organized by San Bernardino County Superintendents Office and available to both San Bernardino and Riverside County schools, allowed our manufacturers to take the virtual stage in a round table that was presented live, but is now available online for teachers to show in their classrooms.

A big thanks from all of us for your time and participation goes out to:

- Gregg Shook, Sr Cost Accountant with Church and Dwight,
- Stacy DeVoll, President, DeVoll Rubber Manufacturing Group, Inc.,
- Diana Ramirez, Customer Service at Reborn Cabinets,
- And Cinnamon Alvarez, President of A19, Inc.

You can view the round table here:

<https://youtu.be/7XsNGn5mg2I?si=TovUeDwDh1QmfZDb>

Wallace Brithinee, President of the MCIE, commented on the event, “The manufacturers did a great job of speaking about their own personal career trajectories. None of them did a conventional career path, where they went to school for a specific trade, then stayed with that at the manufacturer for whom they work.”

Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce Presents Hiring Summit

Join local employers, workforce experts, and fair chance advocates for an engaging discussion on how inclusive hiring practices can strengthen your business, reduce turnover, and transform lives.

Hiring Forward: How Fair Chance Practices Drive Growth & Retention

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 | 🕒 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Boys Republic | 1907 Boys Republic Dr, Chino Hills, CA 91709

Summit Objectives

- Learn about California’s Fair Chance Hiring laws and compliance practices.
- Gain insight on interpreting background checks accurately.
- Access funding, training, and tools to support equitable hiring.
- Connect with local partners and programs sourcing justice-impacted talent.
- Discover the business value of second-chance employment.

Register Here: <https://business.chinovalleychamber.com/events/details/chino-valley-chamber-second-chance-summit-8213>

Tee Up for a Great Cause

Lock in Your Early Bird Pricing by November 30 for MCIE's 2026 Golf Tournaments



Join us in fueling the next generation of manufacturing talent! Celebrate, connect, and make an impact.

Don't Miss Out — Secure Your Foursome and Sponsorship Today!

1. **Early Bird Special:** Register your foursome by **November 30, 2025** for just **\$600** (*regularly \$800*).
2. **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Lock in your 2026 sponsorship now and **Make Your Company Part of the Story** — while helping to advance manufacturing across the Inland Empire.

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.

Economy and Regulations:

- (Oct 3) – Due to the government shutdown, the September jobs report has not been published—the first time in 12 years. Private providers have stepped into the breach to approximate statistics, but the reports in aggregate are inconclusive, ranging from 60,000 jobs gained to 32,000 jobs lost. (HR Dive)
- (Oct 24) – The Federal Open Markets Committee is slated to meet again on October 28-9, and the consensus of economists and market analysts predicts that another rate cut is likely. There are two more opportunities for the FOMC to meet this year aside from this meeting, 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 3.0% from 2.9% month over month. (USA Today, Forbes, Financial Content)
- (Sep 19) – California’s employment and unemployment information for September is not available due to the cascading impact of the government shutdown and its impact on the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As of last report, the State of California’s unemployment rate stood at 5.5%, the third highest in the country, only behind Puerto Rico and District of Columbia. (Forbes)
- (Oct 10) – Toyota makes your TRD Pro Control Arms alongside NASCAR parts in California. The first Toyota Racing Development U.S.A. facility was opened in Costa Mesa, California in the early 1980s, and it's still in operation today. The facility primarily handles manufacturing for Toyota's NASCAR program, but it also contributes to many of the company's other racing endeavors including Formula Drift, GR Corolla TC, GR86 Cup, GT4, NHRA Funny Car, and more. Between its Costa Mesa, California and Irvine, California manufacturing facilities, TRD U.S.A. produces all the billet upper control arms for every Tacoma, Tundra, and 4Runner TRD Pro sold. (Jalopnik.com)
- (Oct 20) – On Oct. 17, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a legal settlement with four major plastic bag manufacturing companies to stop selling such bags in California. State law already mandates that retailers stop using plastic bags on Jan. 1. Friday's settlement hits the manufacturers with \$1.7 million in penalties, establishes that they violated state law by selling unrecyclable bags for years, and will result in many of the bags being removed from the market early, before the end of this year. (San Bernardino Sun)
- (Sep 22) – Tesla factory technician sues for \$51 million after assembly-line robot knocks him unconscious at their Fremont facility. (Independent)

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>

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.

[**READ MORE**](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities

As you begin planning your 2026 marketing and community engagement budgets, we invite you to consider partnering with us as a **Yearly Sponsor** for our upcoming events and initiatives for the year.

At the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire, we're proud to host a variety of impactful events that bring together business leaders, community members, and changemakers across the region. Sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to:

- Build brand awareness
- Connect with targeted audiences
- Align with meaningful causes and business development efforts
- Gain year-round visibility across digital and in-person platforms

Upcoming 2026 Opportunities Include: Visit the MCIE events page here for all events.

Events – MCIE

Included are sponsorship packages to fit a range of goals and budgets—including early visibility opportunities for companies who commit now.

[View Packages](#) | [Download Flyer](#)

For questions and to move forward with sponsorship, please contact Sarah Johnson, Events Operations Director at sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com | (253) 880-2333

Thank you for your continued support of our mission—we look forward to collaborating with you in the year ahead.

Have a profitable November!

Molly

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