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Attend the 2026 Manufacturing Innovation Awards Dinner



RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW – while tickets are available.

RESERVE NOW

ATTEND THE MANUFACTURING INNOVATION AWARDS

May 14th - Happy Hour Mingle from 4 to 5 PM

Dinner and Program 5 to 7 PM

Double Tree Hotel, Ontario

- Lance Hastings, President/CEO of California Manufacturing & Technology (CMTA) will share insights on the State of Manufacturing - "The Good, Bad and the Ugly!"
- Four top manufacturers will present the innovative changes that have led to success and increased profit in their companies.
- Mingle with Manufacturers



*Lance Hastings,
President/CEO of
California Manufacturing
& Technology (CMTA)*

Join us for an evening recognizing Excellence in Manufacturing Innovation and the Future of Manufacturing in the Inland Empire.

[Reserve your seat or table now!](#)

Thank You to our Sponsors



Coming June 1st

[Register to Play Now!](#)

🚀 Ready to Launch at MCIE's 2026 Charity Golf Event? 🚀

One of the most talked-about highlights on the course is back... **the Golf Cannon!**

At the **3rd Annual Manufacturing Charity Golf Event**, players will have the chance to step up, take aim, and launch their shot down the fairway with the Golf Cannon — adding energy, excitement, and a little friendly competition to an already incredible day on the green.



This fan-favorite activity isn't just fun — it's part of a bigger mission.

When: June 1, 2026

Shotgun Start: 8:30 AM

Where: Bear Valley Country Club, Victorville, CA

🔗 Register here: <https://3rdgolfeventmcie.rsvpify.com/>

Why play?

Every swing supports the future of our industry.

A portion of each registration directly funds student scholarships for careers in manufacturing through:

- Technical trade schools
- Apprenticeships
- Career pathway programs

This is more than a great day of golf — it's an opportunity to invest in the workforce that keeps manufacturing strong. Bring your team together, enjoy unforgettable on-course experiences like the Golf Cannon, and help fuel the next generation of talent.

Lock in your foursome and sponsorship package now.

Secure your spot. Support students. Be part of something bigger than the game.

For questions, contact Sarah Johnson at sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com

Sponsors:



WATCH OUR EVENTS PAGE FOR UPCOMING TOURS [Events – MCIE](#)

LET US TOUR YOUR PLANT! Contact Debbie at dsmith@mfgcouncilie.com

Defense Contracting Certifications Are Changing: 5 Things Manufacturers Need to Know



For manufacturers looking at defense contracting, the opportunity is real—but the compliance bar is getting higher. The biggest shift is that defense contracting is no longer just about being able to make the part, meet the spec, and register in the right databases. Increasingly, it is about proving that your company can protect sensitive information, document compliance, and qualify for the right contracting categories before an opportunity appears.

[Read More](#)

Manufacturing Modernization Assessments for Manufacturers - At No Cost



The MCIE has secured funding to provide comprehensive manufacturing assessments to just 30 Inland Empire companies at no cost. Our technical experts will evaluate your operations and create customized modernization roadmaps to help guide your future planning. This is typically a \$5,000 to \$10,000 service.

The program includes a short pre-meeting to verify if this will be a good fit and two 3-hour on-site assessments, by technical experts, including energy efficiency analysis, workforce development strategy and training resources.

What You'll Get:

- **Introductory Call:** Schedule a 15 or 30-minute introductory call. Open to all manufacturers. No cost. No obligation. No sales pitch.
- **On-Site Assessment:** Identify bottlenecks, waste, and automation opportunities in your plant at no cost.
- **Modernization Roadmap:** Improve productivity and throughput. Reduce operating and energy costs.

Contact us if you are a Riverside or San Bernardino County manufacturers with 10 or more employees. Contact Sandra Sisco at ssisco@mfgcouncilie.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY VISIT:

<https://mfgcouncilie.com/automation>

From Lean to Agile: How Manufacturers Can “Go Lean” Beyond the Plant Floor



Lean Manufacturing and Agile are often discussed as separate business philosophies, but they are closely related. In many ways, Agile is the business process application of Lean thinking: a way to help teams work faster, learn continuously, reduce waste, and deliver more value to the customer.

Lean Manufacturing began with a focus on production systems, most famously through the Toyota Production System. Its core ideas include eliminating waste, improving flow, respecting people, solving problems at the source, and continuously improving through small, practical changes.

[Read More](#)

Board Spotlight: Kimberly Clarke, Walker Manufacturing Group



Kimberly Clarke didn't plan on a career in manufacturing—but once she stepped onto the floor, she never left.

"I didn't even know what a purchase order was when I started," she says.

What began as an entry-level role while finishing her degree turned into a decades-long career spanning nearly every function of the business. Today, Clarke is a co-owner of Walker Manufacturing Group, a \$60 million Inland Empire manufacturer and long-time supplier to Toyota.\

[Read More](#)

MCIE Brings Students Inside Advanced Manufacturing with Brenner-Fiedler Tour



The Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) is continuing to connect education with industry through hands-on manufacturing tours designed to inspire the next generation of skilled

workers.

In April, the MCIE hosted a student tour at Brenner-Fiedler's Riverside facility, giving participants a rare behind-the-scenes look at modern automation and engineering in action. Thanks to Norco College and Moreno Valley College for their continued and strong support of the Manufacturers' Council.

Donate Now for Scholarships

The Manufacturers' Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is asking for your support to help fund scholarships for students pursuing industry certifications in manufacturing and technical trades. Your donation equips local talent with the skills employers urgently need, strengthens the regional workforce, and creates life-changing career opportunities.

A contribution today delivers immediate impact—helping students succeed and ensuring a stronger future for Inland Empire manufacturing.

Donate Now

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 2026, 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](#)

Economy and Regulations:

- (Apr 3) – In March, the US economy increased 178,000 jobs. The unemployment rate declined to 4.3% from 4.4% the month prior. Job gains occurred in Construction, Healthcare, Social Assistance. Job gains occurred in Healthcare, Construction, and Logistics and Transportation. Federal employment as well as in Financial Services sectors edged downward in the last month. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- (Feb 18) – The Federal Open Markets Committee will meet again this week and will announce decisions at a press conference on Wednesday. Most expect the Federal Reserve to keep the federal funds rate at current levels, though further cuts may occur later in the year. At their last meeting on January 28 they agreed that inflation's approach to 2% normal levels could be slow and uneven, leaving the Federal Overnight Rate in the targeted range to between 3.5% and 3.75%. CPI inflation increased to 3.3% in March, with energy costs driving the increase, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. (Federal Reserve, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

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.

The MCIE is 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.

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 May!

Molly

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