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News

Macomb County Executive
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Planning & Economic Development

For Immediate Release

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Macomb County celebrates MFG Day 2015 in a BIG way

Macomb County will host its third coordinated celebration of National Manufacturing Day on Friday, Oct. 2 when 44 area manufacturers will open their doors to students from all 28 of the public high schools in the county. As a result, an estimated 1,800 students are expected to see what manufacturing really looks like and meet people who make things.

Manufacturing Day is a national campaign designed to create greater awareness of the importance of the industry to our economy as well as to highlight the interesting and well-paying jobs it offers.

The industry is a very important part of Macomb County's economy. Here, there are more than 1,600 related businesses that provide employment for more than 71,000 people. According to the Michigan Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average employee in the industry makes nearly \$75,000 each year.

Macomb County first celebrated MFG Day in 2013 when County Executive Mark A. Hackel gathered a group of manufacturing executives for a roundtable discussion. The ensuing conversation revealed a common concern held by those in attendance: there aren't enough young people entering the field to take the place of retiring employees.

Alarmed by the implications of a widening gap in necessary skills, staff from the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development began to work with officials from the Macomb Intermediate School District to develop a plan for students to see the industry in action and learn about career opportunities. A planning committee was formed with representatives from industry, government, K-12 education and post-secondary education. As a result, Macomb County hosted one of the largest coordinated efforts in the country in 2014 with a total of 1,246 students.

The generosity of top sponsors Fisher Dynamics, Fori Automation, Futuramic Tool & Engineering, PTI Engineered Plastics, KUKA Systems NA and Proper Group International have made it possible to offset expenses for the event. Additional sponsors include Attica Hydraulic Exchange, Brose Jefferson, JB Cutting, GM Warren Transmission, RCO Engineering and Paslin.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation also provided a small grant so that Macomb County could assist colleagues in Wayne and Oakland counties organize similar events. As a result, a total of 79 companies across the region will open the doors for nearly 2,500 students this year.

To learn more about the regional effort and host sites, visit www.ManufactureMyFuture.com.

As a follow-up to tours, students throughout the region will have an opportunity to further explore jobs offered by the industry and the educational pathways that lead to meaningful careers at the Explore Careers in Manufacturing and Technology seminar to be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Macomb Community College's Sports and Expo Center. The event will feature hands-on displays of technology used in manufacturing as well as ample opportunities for students to meet people who have found success in the industry.

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