

MANUFACTURING

DESCRIPTION

The manufacturing sector continues to grow in regional economic importance. While the 1980s and 90s saw the offshore relocation and centralization of manufacturing jobs, the period from 2008 to present has seen a growth of small-scale manufacturing nationwide. This breakout session discusses complementing initiatives designed to support the continued growth of manufacturing.

Moderator: **Dan Ripke**, *Director*, Center for Economic Development

Panelists:

- **Bill Gaines**, *Senior Engineer and Chairman*, Transfer Flow Inc.
- **Michael Cross**, *Executive Director*, Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NORTEC)
- **Michael Suplita**, *Associate Director of Applied Research*, Center for Economic Development

NORTEC AND GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING

I. Growth in Manufacturing: More Business to Business

California North State Manufacturer's Directory: Database of companies and what products/services they offer in order to promote collaboration in product development and problem solving.

II. Challenges:

1. What are the skill sets needed by employers?
2. Need communication between employers and workforce on skill gaps.

Over the last year, 800 of 1,500 new jobs created in Butte County were in manufacturing.

III. Three Core Objectives

A. Build a 21st Century Workforce: Training the Trainer

- a. Manufacturing Expo: Getting students excited and educating them on opportunities and possibilities in the manufacturing sector.
- b. More effort to educate teachers on current machines and technologies.
- c. Facility Tours: Facility tours and mini courses for teachers in order to provide the best possible education for the up and coming workforce.
- d. Emphasize the importance of applied math and sciences in school and how they can be practical in technical jobs.

B. Create Strong Manufacturing Network:

- a. Grow Manufacturing Directory
- b. Round Table – Bi-annual round table to create sense of unity and discuss issues and skill gaps in the manufacturing sector.
- c. More communication between the needs of agriculture and manufacturers to discuss the use of similar technologies that can transcend between sectors.

C. Allow For Easy Access to Recourses:

- a. Job postings on Grow Manufacturing Directory website and job promotion at manufacturing expo.
- b. Increase information available to teachers on the importance of training at the high school and community college level.

D. Grow Manufacturing Initiative's Plan for 2016:

1. Formalize advisory council to create a 2016 action plan
2. Planning for 2016 Manufacturing Expo
3. More sustainability in the manufacturing sector

CENTRAL VALLEY AGRICULTURE PLUS

Ag. Plus: The combination of the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

I. Central Valley:

- a. 40.7 billion dollar industry, 68% of total GDP
- b. 11 billion dollars in agriculture products
- c. 1,650 Establishments
- d. 52,000 projected job openings in California

II. Six Pillar Strategies to Achieve Growth in Ag. + Sector:

1. Workforce Training – Grow Manufacturing Initiative
2. Supplier Networks
3. Research and Innovation – Identify gaps and fund initiatives like the Grow Manufacturing Initiative.
4. Infrastructure/Site Development
5. Trade and International Investment
6. Operational Improvements/Technology Improvements

III. Goals for Economic Development in Manufacturing Sector:

- a. Workforce Training – Focus on institutions to identify gaps and make plans to improve training systems.
- b. Monthly calls for each pillar in Economic Development Center to focus on planning strategies.