

"America Needs Manufacturing"

"...& Manufacturing needs a skilled, literate workforce"

By

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America needs a strong manufacturing sector to drive a healthy, growing economy for a few solid reasons:

- Manufacturing jobs create a multitude of additional jobs.
- Manufacturing jobs are good paying jobs and provide a higher standard of living.
- Manufacturing strengthens our national security.
- Manufacturers are major contributors to federal, state and local tax revenues.

Recognizing the key role that manufacturing plays in our country, the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) has been providing a variety of activities for organizations to **Share, Learn & Grow**. These activities are derived from the continuous improvement best practices of successful organizations. In fact, AME has been cultivating the revitalization of manufacturing for the last five years and is conducting a conference on the subject this April in San Antonio, Texas. We recognize that this is not enough.

We need a movement, a renaissance. AME's goal is to spread the wealth of its outstanding inventory of organizations that have been successful in driving continuous improvement and excellence. We want to make a difference and accelerate our impact, through a vision of "***A Manufacturing Renaissance driven by People-Centric Leadership coupled with Enterprise Excellence***". This vision will be accomplished by "Inspiring a commitment to Enterprise Excellence through Experiential Learning by bringing people together to Share, Learn and **GROW**".

There are four key pillars to this renaissance: Inspirational Leadership, Enterprise Excellence, Innovation and Manufacturing as a Desirable Career. We will be cultivating all of them as we grow to the next level of success. They are all critical for a successful movement.

This journey begins with **Inspirational Leadership**, without which, there can be no progress resulting in blocking ongoing success. Leaders must hire and train the right people, give them the right tools, and put them in an environment of openness and trust where they can do what they do best.... perform.

Enterprise Excellence continues the movement by creating value and providing people with the aligned framework and tools to cultivate and maintain a continuous improvement culture. Excellence is a journey that has no end. It is the daily application of process improvement, while benchmarking against the very best. AME's conferences, products and services will continue to provide opportunities for continuous improvement.

This process of always looking for a better way cultivates an environment of **Innovation**. When employees are entrusted with their own judgment and accountability, they can become very creative with small ideas/improvements growing into larger ones and resulting in game changing breakthroughs. AME will be applying its improvement tools and recognition to inspire organizations to develop environments for generating and connecting ideas for creative solutions.

Of course, this does not happen without a supply of skilled workers that are the result of making **Manufacturing a Desirable Career**. The manufacturing sector is in the midst of a major skill shortage. 600,000 manufacturing jobs remain open without skilled workers to fill them. AME will be working with key organizations and schools to drive an improved image of manufacturing and expand the availability of resources to provide students the necessary reading, math and critical thinking skills to be successful.

One of the key ingredients for a company to be successful is engaging their workforce. This process becomes much more difficult when individuals struggle to read, communicate and interact. How can you expect them to continually look for better ways of producing a product or being innovative when they have a hard time understanding and expressing themselves? With our current workforce aging and moving towards retirement, it is critical that our up and coming workers have the basic skill set to grow and lead this country's manufacturing industry. Two points to keep in mind:

“America needs manufacturing & manufacturing needs a literate workforce”

Join us on this Manufacturing Renaissance journey. It will have a major impact on our economy and make a sustainable difference in all of our lives. It will also be an enjoyable ride. I guarantee it!

Paul

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