

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE 8TH ANNUAL “VALLEY MADE” MANUFACTURING SUMMIT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS *More than 800 attendees expected; 80 exhibitors and 11 topical workshop sessions*

Fresno, California – October 11, 2023...The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA) and the Fresno Business Council (FBC) are preparing to open the doors for the 8th Annual “Valley Made” Manufacturing Summit (Manufacturing Summit), which will take place on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall.

The Manufacturing Summit is designed as a workshop and resource expo that celebrates the Valley’s history of innovation in manufacturing while providing resources and networking opportunities that continue to build a well-trained, outstanding workforce. At its core, the Summit promotes cross-sector collaboration aimed at creating a globally competitive environment for the Valley’s manufacturing industry.

This year’s keynote speaker is Kevin Goering, McKinsey & Company, a leader of McKinsey’s industry 4.0 work. Kevin advises executives on the next horizon of productivity gains that are becoming possible through technology and advanced analytics.

Cost to attend is \$175; student tickets are available starting at \$35 by visiting www.sjvma.org/summit. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Officials are expecting more than 800 manufacturing industry attendees including CEOs, technology management, human resources directors, industry service providers and Career Technical Education partners.

Media is encouraged to attend the “Valley Made” Manufacturing Summit. Please notify Danielle Griffin at danielle@cohencommunications.com of any specific interview requests in advance and on the day of the Summit. Below you will find a complete schedule of events that includes details on the 11 workshop sessions.

8:00 a.m. Doors Open

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Job Fair

- Program partner clients and students from local high schools, community colleges and Fresno State will be onsite to connect with local manufacturers to network and secure job shadow, internship and employment opportunities. These sessions will also provide manufacturers with a glimpse at their future workforce.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Breakout Session One

- *Understanding California’s Energy Realities: Navigating A Responsible Energy Transition*
 - Speakers:
 - Brad Williams, Senior Partner and Chief Economist, Capitol Matrix Consulting
- *Business Succession Through Master Planning-Controlling Your Company’s Path and Vision for its Future*
 - Speakers:
 - Steve Deis, Managing Director, Lazear Capital
 - Rhonda Staelgraeve-Secor, President, RLS Private Wealth Consulting, Inc.

- *Securing Critical Manufacturing Sectors from Today's Cyber Risks & Theaters*
 - Speakers:
 - Brian Horton, CEO, Breadcrumb Cybersecurity
 - Mauro Ramirez, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- *Employee Retention & Tribal Knowledge Transfer*
 - Speakers:
 - Doug Waterman, Senior Client Advisor, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Breakout Session Two

- *Internships Can Revolutionize the Way You Hire (And Lower Your Costs)*
 - Speakers:
 - Kurt Madden, CEO, Career Nexus
 - Timothy Lowe, Program Director, Career Nexus
 - LJay Ramirez, Director, Human Resources, Career Nexus
- *Heartland Compass – A Proven Approach to Support Your Employees and Improve Retention*
 - Speaker: Kendra Devejian, CEO, Heartland Compass
- *Artificial Intelligence for the Rest of Us: Will the REI AI Please Stand Up?*
 - Speaker: Jonathan Lee, President/Managing Consultant at MasterClass Advisors and Founder/CEO of PerfectSME, MasterClass Advisors, PerfectSME
- *Finding, Training & Keeping the Next Generation of Workforce*
 - Speakers:
 - Gardner Carrick, Vice President of Workforce Solutions, The Manufacturing Institute, National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
 - Dick Herman, President, California Tooling & Machining Apprenticeship Association

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Program & Keynote

- Kevin Goering, Partner, McKinsey & Company
 - *Preparing for the Future of Manufacturing: What's Coming and What Parts We Play*

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Break & Exhibit Area Experience

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session Three

- *Using Systems Thinking for Conflicts Resolution*
 - Speakers:
 - Edgar Blunt, CEO & Co-Founder, Imago
 - Melissa Murphy, Customer Success Team, Imago
- *Navigating Success: Resources for California Businesses*
 - Speakers:
 - Bob Adams, Central Valley Small Business Engagement Specialist, California Office of the Small Business Advocate
 - Elise Candelaria, Senior Economic Development Analyst, Employment Training Panel
 - Jordan Fetsch, Contract Analyst, Employment Training Panel
- *State and Federal Investments in Central Valley Workforce*
 - Speakers:
 - Chris Zeitz, Director of Special Projects, Fresno Economic Development Corporation

- Karen Aceves, Founder & CEO, Arken Strategies

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Happy Hour

- Exhibitor Floor Lounge Area

For more information on the 8th Annual “Valley Made” Manufacturing Summit visit <https://sjvma.org/summit>.

The Fresno Business Council and San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance

The [Fresno Business Council \(FBC\)](#) aims to create social and economic change which leaves a lasting impact on Fresno’s community, combining its collective passion and intellectual capital to form strategic solutions for local issues. The FBC’s CEO and Board take a leadership role in executing their strategies and have been the force behind major local initiatives involving education, land use, workforce development, and more. Among the many projects incubated and launched by the FBC is the **San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA)**, which provides support for local manufacturers through elevating the workforce pipeline with the recently formed [Career Nexus](#), educating the public on the industry, building constructive relationships and hosting the “**Valley Made**” **Summit**; an annual conference for the San Joaquin Valley’s manufacturing industry that is focused on creating a globally-competitive industry while celebrating its thriving business community.

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