



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Rae Pardini Matson, RPM PR on behalf of SJVMA

Cell 559.351.9958

Email rae@rpm-pr.com

CENTRAL VALLEY FAME LAUNCHES AS FIRST FAME CHAPTER IN CALIFORNIA

Fresno, CA – October 30 – The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance’s 9th annual Valley Made Summit was a tremendous success, drawing in over 900 manufacturing industry attendees, including prominent leaders from the manufacturing industry, local government officials, and educators. The event highlighted the thriving manufacturing sector in the Central Valley and its vital role in the regional economy. Attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions on industry trends, workforce development, and the future of manufacturing.

During the luncheon program, the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance was proud to announce the launch of the Central Valley FAME Chapter, marking the first FAME chapter in the state of California and west of the Rockies. Located in the heart of the Central Valley, this new chapter aims to address the skills gap in the manufacturing industry and provide high-quality training and career opportunities for local residents.

FAME, the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education, is a nationally recognized program operated by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Manufacturing Institute. This initiative combines technical training, work-based learning, and strong industry partnerships to develop skilled manufacturing technicians who are ready to meet the needs of a modern workforce.

“The Central Valley FAME Chapter is an exciting milestone for the manufacturing community in California. Through this partnership, we are bringing a proven model of advanced manufacturing education to a region that plays a critical role in the nation’s manufacturing economy. We are

thrilled to see how this initiative will shape the next generation of highly skilled workers, providing them with the tools they need to thrive in this evolving industry. FAME served as a model for the Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge, so it is fitting that this region's Good Jobs partners have achieved such a momentous accomplishment," said Gardner Carrick, Chief Program Officer, The Manufacturing Institute.

The launch of the Central Valley FAME Chapter is part of a broader regional strategy aimed at addressing workforce development challenges. SJVMA plays a vital role as the Central Valley Hub for workforce and training programs in manufacturing. As the central coordinator of this initiative, SJVMA serves as the nexus for collaboration between local manufacturers, educational institutions, and community partners. The alliance not only promotes innovation and industry growth but also works to strengthen the talent pipeline that will drive future success in the manufacturing sector.

Will Oliver, President and CEO of Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (Fresno County EDC) highlighted the broad impacts collaboration has achieved in the region in recent years. "The creation of California's first FAME Chapter, joining 40 other Chapters in the U.S., shows our commitment to addressing economic and workforce needs across a continuum of training that begins with short-term, entry-level programs leading to high-quality jobs with partnering employers and continued advancement through a mix of additional education and on-the-job experience."

Fresno County EDC plays a pivotal role as the Good Jobs Challenge system lead across multiple industry sectors. As part of the Good Jobs Challenge, Fresno County EDC received funding to spearhead job training programs that lead to good-paying jobs. This funding will significantly bolster the Central Valley FAME Chapter's efforts to create equitable and accessible career pathways for individuals, particularly those from underserved communities, by providing industry-aligned training and certification programs.

"The launch of the Central Valley FAME Chapter is a valuable addition to our region's workforce initiatives, supporting SCCCD's commitment to building career pathways and addressing real workforce needs," said Dr. Carole Goldsmith, Chancellor, State Center Community College District. "In partnership with the Good Jobs 4 The Central Valley initiative, Fresno EDC, and the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance, this program provides hands-on, industry-aligned training that not only prepares our students for critical roles in the local economy but also strengthens Central Valley industries. This collaboration represents a powerful step toward high-quality job opportunities for our diverse community and drives economic growth in the region."

The Central Valley FAME Chapter will collaborate with local manufacturers, educational institutions, and community partners to ensure the program's success. Through internships, apprenticeships, and industry certifications, participants will gain valuable hands-on experience and develop the skills necessary for a rewarding career in manufacturing.

The launch of the Central Valley FAME Chapter marks a transformative moment for the region's manufacturing industry, bringing together key educational institutions and industry leaders to address the growing demand for skilled workers.

"As a leader in advanced manufacturing, Trillium Flow Technologies is excited to support the launch of the Central Valley FAME Chapter. This initiative is key to addressing the growing demand for highly trained workers in the industry," said Stephen Avila, Plant Manager Trillium Flow Technologies and Central Valley FAME Chapter President. "By working directly with students and educators, we can ensure that the next wave of manufacturing talent is equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to drive innovation and success."

For more information about the Central Valley FAME Chapter and enrollment opportunities, please visit fame-usa.com/fame-program-locations/california-fame/central-valley-chapter/.

VISUALS

Click [HERE](#) to see video clips and photos of FAME being announced during the 9th annual SJVMA Valley Made Summit.

ABOUT SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE

The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA) is a pivotal organization dedicated to advancing the manufacturing industry within California's San Joaquin Valley. Founded with a mission to foster innovation, enhance workforce development, and promote economic growth, SJVMA serves as a dynamic platform for manufacturers, industry partners, and educational institutions to collaborate and drive the region's manufacturing sector forward.

Through strategic initiatives, networking events, and comprehensive training programs, SJVMA addresses the unique challenges faced by manufacturers in the region. The Alliance is committed to equipping the local workforce with cutting-edge skills, advocating for policy changes that benefit the manufacturing community, and supporting technological advancements to ensure competitive edge in a global market.

SJVMA's membership includes a diverse array of manufacturers from various sectors, reflecting the rich industrial landscape of the San Joaquin Valley. By providing resources, facilitating partnerships, and fostering a collaborative environment, SJVMA is instrumental in shaping the future of manufacturing in the region, ensuring its members thrive and contribute to the sustainable economic prosperity of the Valley. To learn more, visit www.sjvma.org.

ABOUT FAME

The Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program is a national initiative designed to develop the next generation of highly skilled manufacturing talent. It provides

global-best workforce development through strong technical training, integration of manufacturing core competencies, intensive professional practices and intentional hands-on experience to build the future of the modern manufacturing industry.

FAME combines classroom education with hands-on, work-based learning, allowing students to earn a degree while gaining real-world experience in advanced manufacturing. Its mission is to build a pipeline of globally competitive workers by equipping students with technical expertise, problem-solving skills, and professional behaviors. The Central Valley Chapter has been founded by key local employers and key community partners. Over time, this program is designed to create a pipeline of highly trained individuals who can transition to full-time employment upon graduation. For participating companies, this program is critical to fill the skills gaps in advanced manufacturing operations.

With over 40 chapters across the U.S., FAME has had a significant impact on workforce development, producing graduates who are in high demand by leading manufacturers and helping to strengthen the nation's manufacturing sector.

###