



MANUFACTURING MATTERS

A newsletter of The Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing

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2023 SVAM Manufacturers' Expo

On August 31, the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon was bustling with activity as it hosted SVAM's annual Southwest Virginia Manufacturers' Expo. The gathering brought together 19 manufacturing companies, vendors, suppliers, and specialized service providers, creating a vital platform for networking and education within the region's manufacturing community.

The Expo was a showcase of local manufacturing prowess, with various booths and exhibits featuring the businesses of participating manufacturers. It offered an invaluable opportunity for these local firms to expand their supply chains, demonstrate their expertise, explore new business opportunities, and tap into valuable resources to enhance their operations.

In addition to the exhibitor displays, this year's Expo featured two insightful breakout sessions. Dr. Zachary Collier, an Assistant Professor of Management at Radford University's Davis College of Business and Economics, led the first session titled "Making Decisions and Navigating Risks." The second session, "Make or Buy: How to Choose (It isn't as Easy as Flipping a Coin)," was presented by Dr. Cheryl Carrico, Engagement Manager at GENEDGE.

Long-time attendee Rhonda Holt of Samuel Pressure Vessel Group expressed her enthusiasm for the event: "The annual SVAM Expo is a day of networking and learning that I look forward to each year. I have attended the Expo for the past nine years, and every year, I leave with great business leads, new contacts, and fresh ideas. Being able to collaborate with area companies helps us all be more successful."

The Manufacturers' Expo served as a dynamic hub for the region's manufacturing sector, fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth, and promises to continue being a highlight of the Southwest Virginia manufacturing calendar.



Mission Statement: Supporting the sustainment and advancement of manufacturing in Southwest Virginia through regional collaborations, improving the image of manufacturing, and closing the skills gap.

SVAM Goals

Goal 1: Supporting manufacturing and its careers as part of an educational and economic development initiative.

Goal 2: Increasing the number of individuals who pursue manufacturing-based careers.

Goal 3: Aligning educational and workforce training resources with the most pressing demands of area industry.



Manufacture Your Career at MECC

On September 20th, SVAM held its Manufacturing Career Program at Mountain Empire Community College. The purpose of this program is to encourage students to pursue careers in manufacturing by changing perceptions and educating them about available opportunities.

For this event, four panelists spoke to students and faculty about their companies, the benefits of working in manufacturing, and available job opportunities. They answered questions about pay and benefits, why so many have stayed in manufacturing for so long, working environments, how Southwest Virginia manufacturing impacts the globe, and much more. Panelists for this event were Austin Phillips, Senior EHS Specialist at Komatsu; David Hess, Quality Manager at Tadano Mantis Corporation; Seth Phillips, Materials Manager at Real Performance Machinery, and Richard Rutherford, Conduit Supervisor at VFP, Inc..

After the panel discussion, many students took advantage of the opportunity to network with panelists after the event. Thank you to Matthew Rose with MECC, for hosting us for this event, and to our panelists for helping SVAM accomplish its goals.

Manufacturing Careers Promotion



This unique weekly e-newsletter highlights career opportunities available within manufacturing companies all across Southwest Virginia. Jobs highlighted in this newsletter are pulled directly from SVAM's Manufacturing Careers webpage, which is updated every Thursday with the most up to date information.



NEW JOB OPENINGS

Maintenance I-ARP

Company: Amcor Rigid Packaging
Location: Wytheville, Virginia

Apply

CNC Machinist - 2nd Shift

Company: Columbus McKinnon
Location: Damascus, Virginia

Apply

Recruiter

Company: Danco Southern
Location: Independence, Virginia

Apply

Advanced Quality Engineer

Company: General Dynamics
Location: Marton, Virginia

Apply

Shop Liaison

Company: Komatsu
Location: Duffield, Virginia

Extrusion Operator

Company: Mohawk Industries
Location: Hillsville, Virginia

SVAM is excited to introduce our weekly SWVA Manufacturing Jobs E-newsletter. The purpose of the E-Newsletter is to help the community remain informed of the wide variety of career opportunities available in manufacturing each week. It is also meant to provide a direct channel to help our member companies connect with active job seekers. This curated newsletter provides a snapshot of openings and is a gateway to our careers page's newest and most enticing positions.

The newsletter is published every Friday. Anyone interested in signing up can do so on our website at swvam.org/mfgcareers.



We are committed to promoting new and ongoing career opportunities for our member companies! Updated every Thursday, SVAM's Manufacturing Careers webpage (swvam.org/mfgcareers) aims to be a one-stop destination for job seekers. This dedicated page compiles diverse opportunities, typically featuring around 150 or more job openings at any given time. Moreover, the page provides direct links to the application portals of these openings, streamlining the process for job seekers to submit their applications.

Training Opportunities for Membership

SVAM continued to meet member training needs with ongoing training offerings this quarter. Trainings were provided at no cost to SVAM Member companies. As part of its Supervisor Training series, in partnership with Virginia Tech's Southwest Center, SVAM offered the following trainings: "Communicating with Employees", "Time Management", and "Design Thinking and Problem Solving". Per a member request, SVAM also partnered with Baker Donelson to offer a virtual "Reasonable Suspicion" training.

Member-to-Member Connections

SVAM's Human Resources Peer Group members met twice during the quarter. Their first meeting was virtual. The group heard from Caitlin Cook from Ballad Health's Injury Prevention Program. The group then discussed successes across the companies represented including reduced turnover rates, employee celebrations for achieving new milestones, attracting more job applicants, a safety-themed week with employee involvement, and one company celebrated 200 days of accident-free work with generous rewards. In August, the HR Peer group was hosted by Woodgrain for a group discussion and company tour of their facility.



In September, SVAM's Environmental Health and Safety Peer gathered in Duffield to tour Komatsu Global and VFP. These tours allowed members to learn about both the manufacturing process at each company and the safety programs of these companies. Through networking and benchmarking, these opportunities help our members to support and strengthen one another.

Membership Benefits

Connections:

Members are provided opportunities to connect with other manufacturers as well as vendors - providing opportunities for business improvement and business growth.

Resources:

SVAM has saved its member companies thousands of dollars by providing them with access to resources that offset training and development costs.

Support:

Member companies have access to a menu of benefits offered that support business growth including training, marketing, and efforts to help member companies fill job openings.

SVAM Manufacturing Membership



SVAM Affiliate Members

Allegheny Brokerage Company; AM Training Management; Appalachian Council for Innovation; Appalachian Environmental Resources; Appalachian Promise Alliance; AtWork Recruiting and Staffing; Baker Donelson; Ballad Health; Bristol Rent All; Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.; Dickenson County Board of Supervisors; Emory & Henry College; Employee Benefit Consultants; GBC Wellness Center/The Medfit Center; Genedge Alliance; Hollingsworth & Vose Company; Hungate Business Services; King University; Merrick & Company (formerly Alliance Engineering); Micronic Technologies; Mountain Empire Community College; Mount Rogers Regional Partnership; New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board; Occupational Enterprises, Inc.; Old Dominion University; OpX Solutions, LLC; Radford University; SESCO Management Consultants; Smyth County Chamber of Commerce; Southwest Virginia Community College's Procurement Technical Assistance Center; Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board; The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County; The University of Virginia's College at Wise; Tri-County Skill Center; UVA-WISE Office of Economic Development; United Way of Southwest Virginia; Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority; Virginia Highlands Community College; Virginia Tech; Washington County Chamber; Washington County Industrial Development Authority; Wytheville Community College; Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce.

Local Government Partners

Smyth County Board of Supervisors, Washington County Board of Supervisors, Wythe County Board of Supervisors (Affiliate), Scott County Board of Supervisors (Affiliate)



851 French Moore Jr. Blvd., Suite 109
Abingdon, Virginia 24210
www.swvam.org
(276) 492-2100