



September 27, 2017

Dear Partners,

It is that time of year again- time to celebrate National Manufacturing Month. As active participants in the manufacturing industry in Illinois, we hope you set time aside to discuss and highlight the importance of this growing sector. Governor Rauner has officially proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month in Illinois, and we invite you to join in celebrating our state's strong base of manufacturers.

Manufacturing Month is designed to celebrate and recognize the impact modern manufacturing has on our country while addressing some common misconceptions about working in the industry. Throughout the month, our partners will be showcasing manufacturing's modern tools and operations.

As a leader in next generation manufacturing, Illinois has a robust ecosystem to showcase. We are the fifth largest manufacturing state in the country with manufacturing employing over 572,500 people - making manufacturing our state's third largest industry.

All of October, there will be many opportunities to highlight the benefits of working in the industry and continue to build a talent pipeline for the industry to guarantee Illinois remains a leader in manufacturing for years to come. Today's science, technology, engineering, and math graduates will power the next generation of American production and innovation; harnessing their potential is an economic imperative.

Governor Rauner, Lt. Governor Sanguinetti, Deputy Governor Munger, myself, and other members of the Department will be participating in events across the state throughout the State. If you are hosting an event, make sure to register it, or if you are looking to participate in events, make sure to visit <http://www.mfgday.com/>.

To obtain a copy of the Governor's Proclamation of Manufacturing Month, please reach out to Leslie Strain at Leslie.Strain@illinois.gov.

Manufacturing is a longstanding pillar of Illinois' economy. We are proud to recognize our manufacturing legacy in Illinois and the innumerable contributions manufacturers will continue to make for generations to come.

Best,

Sean McCarthy

Director

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Don't forget to join the conversation on social media and tag your Manufacturing Month events and pictures with #MFG17 and #ILMFG.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
Bruce Rauner, Governor