

Manufacturing & Policy Conference Recap

» The State Chamber's Delaware Manufacturing Association (DMA) held its Spring Manufacturing and Policy Conference on March 24th. The event featured Governor John Carney who announced plans to invest more in Delaware's economic infrastructure and expressed continued support towards retraining initiatives like Forward Delaware.

Carolyn Lee, executive director of The Manufacturing Institute, provided a keynote on closing the skills gap. Lee cited that creating jobs is only half the story – filling jobs is the other half.

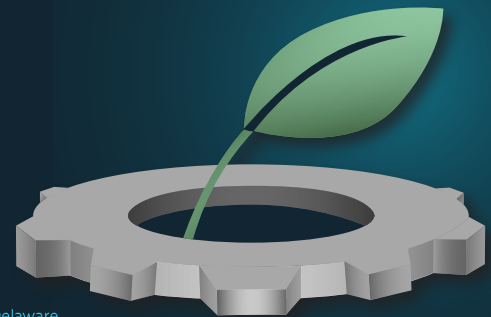
She explained that over the next decade, we will need to fill 4.6 million jobs, and 2.4 million jobs will go unfilled by 2028 because workers lack the skills to fill them. To tackle this issue, she offered two strategies:

1. Train and upskill workers for these vacant jobs by expanding programs and partnerships that engage government, schools, and industry along with providing incentives for manufacturers to invest in on-the-job hard and soft skills training.
2. Change perceptions about what modern manufacturing really is today – it is no longer an assembly

line but an extremely innovative and constantly changing sector that offers above average pay, good benefits, and meaningful work. Part of changing perception includes recruiting women, veterans, and young professionals to the industry.

The event also hosted a discussion on recreational marijuana legalization with experts from California and Oregon where marijuana is already legalized. The discussion was held just before the bill was heard in the House Health and Human Development committee that same day.

THE FUTURE IS NOW: TACKLING THE SKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE MANUFACTURING & POLICY CONFERENCE



HOSTED BY:
DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE &
DELAWARE MANUFACTURING
ASSOCIATION



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