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White House Official to Speak in NW Indiana

InsideIndianaBusiness.com Report

White House Counselor on Manufacturing Policy Ron Bloom will participate in a summit on manufacturing issues next week in Merrillville. The event will focus on work force education, training and policies needed at to keep the United States globally competitive.



Source: Inside Indiana Business

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News Release

Merrillville, Ind. -- With Northwest Indiana manufacturing companies facing a worker shortage in the coming years, and the economy and jobs topping the list of voter concerns for the upcoming midterm election, area business and labor leaders will participate in a "Manufacturing Our Future" Summit in Merrillville on October 20.

White House Counselor on Manufacturing Policy Ron Bloom will join national and local business, labor and civic leaders to discuss workforce education, training and policies needed at the local, state and national levels to keep our nation competitive globally by encouraging and preparing young people to enter good-paying careers in manufacturing. A recent study by the National Skills Coalition estimates that by 2016 more than 487,000 Indiana middle-skill job openings will be available – requiring more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree.

"As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement age, many manufacturers in the Northwest Indiana region will be losing skilled workers. We must find a way to properly educate and encourage careers in manufacturing as a step toward a secure future," said Mike Rippey, President and CEO, ArcelorMittal USA. "At ArcelorMittal, we are focused on producing safe sustainable steel through a focus on continuous improvement, quality, cost and energy management. In order to remain competitive, we will need workers with the skills and knowledge required to deliver on this critical mission."

"Manufacturing is the hub of our economy, and we need tomorrow's manufacturing workers to move this country forward," said Tom Conway, Vice President of the United Steelworkers. "We're pleased to be involved with an event that helps young workers build the skills needed for 21st Century manufacturing."

"We are honored to have Ron Bloom there to discuss how the Obama Administration is working to restore manufacturing and prepare workers with the advanced skill-set needed for a career in 21st Century manufacturing," said Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) Executive Director Scott Paul. "We'll also hear from ArcelorMittal's Andy Harshaw and local leaders about what's being done nationally and in northwest Indiana to create manufacturing jobs."

The Summit is part of AAM's "Keep Made in America" 10-state Town Hall tour, where voters can directly question their candidates and elected officials on keys issues such as the need to create good jobs for the 21st Century, unbalanced trade with China, and rebuilding U.S. manufacturing for the global economy.

AAM believes that a highly skilled and effective workforce is vital to the U.S. manufacturing sector. That means training today's workers and raising the educational performance of tomorrow's workers, beginning with schools and families. The Oct. 20 summit will address the current picture as well as future needs and efforts.

"The majority of Americans say that China has overtaken the United States as the world's strongest economy and that Washington isn't doing enough to rebuild manufacturing," said AAM's Paul. "Manufacturing has always been the economic backbone of northwest Indiana and our nation and we must reinvigorate manufacturing if

we are going to be number one again.”

Source: The Alliance for American Manufacturing

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