
Job Seekers, Register for Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo Now!

Metro Milwaukee manufacturers have family-supporting jobs to fill

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&
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If you are looking for work, here's the best job tip of the day, hands down: Register for the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo on May 10, at the State Fair Exposition Center in West Allis and *do it now!* If you don't need a job, but you know someone who does, pass it on. Think family member, a relative, friend, or neighbor.

If you're a Milwaukee area manufacturer with jobs to fill, you should register, too, especially if you've been frustrated by a lack of qualified job applicants thus far. What we have in the works is not your ordinary job fair. We're vetting job seekers, doing what we can to ensure they're job ready.

Finally, if you're a job seeker or employer, but your interest or business is not in manufacturing, take note. The manufacturing career expo is a sign of things to come. What we have planned at State Fair Park on May 10 will become the model for future recruiting events. Under Governor Walker's "Wisconsin Working" plan, we are doubling the number of job fairs this year to keep the economy moving forward by connecting job seekers and employers. Like the expo, future events will take recruiting to a new level.

What makes this event different from other job fairs? We and our partners, the Milwaukee Urban League and others, are going to great lengths to get results for both job seekers and employers. For starters, the expo is open only to job seekers who register in advance and employers who have jobs openings. If you are a job seeker, for example, it's in your best interest to register now and take advantage of services we have to offer.

For job seekers, getting an admission ticket involves three easy steps:

1. If you haven't already done so, register with the Department of Workforce Development's online employment site, <https://JobCenterofWisconsin.com>. This is a great resource for job seekers and employers alike. Job listings recently topped 38,000 on the site that is free, easy to use and accessible at all hours. Currently, weekly job orders are running double the number a year ago, and triple the comparable weekly total in 2010. These job openings are a sure sign of an economy moving in the right direction.
2. Next, click on "Job Seeker Tools," first to complete or update your resume, and then to take a self assessment survey. Save your updated resume and completed survey, then print a copy of each. Now you're ready for the final step.
3. Take your copies to one of the following Job Centers: Job Center Northeast, Job Center Southeast, the HIRE Center, or the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board Resource Room. You can also stop by the Urban League office. Whatever the location, staff will review your copies and walk you through other steps to improve your chances. At the end of your session, you will receive a ticket for admission to the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo!

After three years of roughly 145,000 in job losses, Wisconsin's economy is improving. Employers are optimistic and hiring, as is clearly evident from the online job postings. Still, many people remain unemployed or underemployed. Unemployment remains unacceptably high in Milwaukee, especially among minorities. The career expo is part of a comprehensive approach to empower individuals and get Wisconsin working again.

We are equally mindful of challenges employers face in trying to find workers, particularly a skills gap for certain available jobs even with many people unemployed. This workforce paradox persists. Employers say they can't find welders, for example. The refrain is constant. Milwaukee Machine Works was among the first to register for the expo, and as General Manager Mike Manna put it, "We're looking for machinists all the time."

In advance of the expo, we've been reaching out to Milwaukee area manufacturers, working to determine their employment needs and encouraging them to register. If you're a manufacturer with jobs to fill, but undecided about participating in the expo, we encourage you to act now. The registration deadline is April 20th.

Whether you're a Milwaukee manufacturer with job openings or a job seeker who wants a career in manufacturing, your decision now to participate could be one of the best you will ever make.