



**2018 Competitiveness Forum  
& Workforce Symposium  
November 13 - 14, 2018  
Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg, VA**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

**8AM–11AM** VMA Board of Directors Meeting – Salon B

**8AM–7PM** Trade Show – Pre-Function

**12PM-6PM** Supply Chain Interviews – Salon A

**9AM-4:30PM** MSI Workforce Symposium – Salon D & C

The Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) is developing its first national Symposium with a theme of “Workforce: The Competitive Edge” and drawing on Manufacturers from 19 states. We will also include Economic Developers and Educators (including University, Community College, High School CTE/STEM/Vocational Rehab instructors, administrators and counselors). Best practices and ideas from manufacturers, agencies and schools will be showcased in a way that is designed to get each of these groups to move out of their silos and collaborate with their peers in other organizations.

**9AM-9:15AM** Welcome/Speaker Introduction – Whitney Harrison, ITAC

**9:15AM-10AM** Kick Off Speaker – Credentials and the Education System-Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia  
*Secretary Qarni will lay out the vision for changes in Virginia education system for promoting and developing career & technical education.*

**10AM-10:45AM** Interactive Session: Getting to Know You (Marshmallow Challenge),  
Melissa Gordon, MSI  
*Join the other people at your table in an interactive and challenging session which will give everyone a chance to show off their critical thinking and team skills.*

**10:45AM-11:45AM** Apprenticeship Panel  
**Moderator:** Rick Sizemore, WWRC  
**Participants:** Ken Winebarger, ITAC; Alan Farren, PMUSA; Wes Smith, CCWA; Debby Hopkins, SVWIB; and Kelli Gilliam, NNS  
*Learn best practices from practitioners with apprenticeship programs at some of the leading companies in Virginia.*

- 11:45AM-12:30PM Assistive Technology for Manufacturers and CPID:** Paula Martin, DARS  
*Paula will guide you through the assistive technology techniques and correlate these to standard process improvement techniques.*
- 12:30PM-12:45PM Lunch Service**
- 12:45PM-1:30PM What a Woman Wants.....@Work – Speaker:** Sara Potecha, author of West Point Woman: How Character is Created, and Leadership is Learned  
*This renowned speaker and author will share the critical leadership techniques she learned as one of the first women to graduate from West Point. She will relay firsthand knowledge of how the skills women bring to the workplace are necessary in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy for all businesses. Sara will reflect on the techniques needed to hire talented women and retain them in a manufacturing workplace. She will also have her first book available and will sign any editions which are bought at the Workforce Symposium.*
- 1:30PM-2:30PM Soft Skills Challenge Discussion**  
**Moderator:** Simon Nance, Lutron  
**Table Coaches:** Rick Sizemore, WWRC; Vanessa Rastberger, MSI; Kate Kaegi, DARS; Paula Martin, DARS, Wes Smith, CCWA  
*Many companies find it hard to hire people with the right blend of technical and soft skills, this panel will explain the intricacies of identifying and measuring soft skills.*
- 2:30PM-2:45PM Break**
- 2:45PM-3:45PM Moderator:** Randy Stamper, VCCS  
**Closing Speaker – The Hidden Manufacturing Workforce -** Deon Clark, CEO, TCI Solutions  
*Deon will share elements of his personal journey from Chicago to business ownership; while providing meaningful insights and strategies for accessing and attracting local diverse youth and young adults to manufacturing.*
- 3:45PM-4:15PM Awards and Closing Comments –** Dr. Victor Gray, Executive Director, MSI  
*This year MSI will award individuals who have shown innovative thinking and development of programs which get people interested and hired to great jobs using credentials.*
- 4:15PM-5:30PM Resource Bingo; Do you know your workforce resources? Salon B**  
**Moderator:** Kate Kaegi, VMA DARS Liaison (Grants, V2V& apprenticeships, WWRC, Rapid Response, ISRT, MT1, Company Profiles, DIDIVA Solutions, V2V, CCWA, Spark Hire, Rapid Response, CPID, World Class Manufacturing, STEP Women in Manufacturing, WIB, WIOA, VJIP.)  
*Join us as we explore all of the workforce programs and learn how to use these one of a kind resources to train and retrain our workforce. This technique will ensure that you have a chance to talk to someone about your needs in workforce.*
- 4:30PM–5:30PM VMA 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting (Members Only) – Salon D & C**

**5:30PM–7PM MFG Makes Virginia Reception – Pre-Function**

**7PM-9PM Members Dinner at Virginia Beer Company Co-hosted by Kaufman & Canoles**

### **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

**8AM–11AM MSI Workshop – Salon B**

**8AM–4:30PM Trade Show – Pre-Function**

**8AM-12PM Supply Chain Interviews – Salon A**

**9AM-4PM Competitiveness Forum – Salon D & C**

Join Virginia's top manufacturing executives, industry leaders and service providers to the manufacturing industry, to learn about best-practices, technologies and solutions that drive Virginia's manufacturing competitiveness in five major areas: Business Climate, Workforce, Innovation, Infrastructure and Economic Strength. The program will examine the Commonwealth's standing against other US states and explore how to better compete. The VMA will also unveil the *2018 Virginia Manufacturing Competitiveness Index*. The Virginia Competitiveness Forum is an opportunity to engage in continuous improvement, share best-practices, network with peers, experience new technologies, explore the intersection of public policy and MFG competitiveness, and celebrate the future of Virginia manufacturing.

**9:00AM-9:05AM Welcome –Tanya Cook, VMA Vice Chair**

**9:05AM-9:10AM Keynote Speaker Introduction – Brett Vassey, President & CEO, VMA**

#### **ECONOMIC STRENGTH SESSION**

**9:10AM-10:00AM Virginia MFG Competitiveness Index - Ted Abernathy, Economic Leadership LLC**  
*The MFG Competitiveness Index is the first industry-led comparison of its kind in the U.S. The VMA and Virginia Industry Foundation published the report and how Virginia compared to the other 49 states in five areas of measurement: Economic Strength, Infrastructure, Innovation, Business Climate and Workforce. Ted will unveil the new metrics for 2018 and Virginia's progress against the 52 metrics included in the 2017 report.*

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE SESSION**

**10:00AM-11:00AM**

**Moderator: Becky Merritt, Dominion Energy**

**Panel:**

**Port Infrastructure & Improvements – Russ Held, Vice President, Economic Development, The Port of Virginia**

**I-81 Corridor Truck-Only Tolling & Improvements - The Honorable David Yancey, Chairman, House Transportation Committee**

**Energy Infrastructure and the Link Between Natural Gas and Energy Competitiveness in Industry** – Michael Whatley, Executive Vice President, Consumer Energy Alliance

*This panel will explore the importance of critical infrastructure to Virginia's global competitiveness and future growth.*

**11AM-11:30AM Break/Set for Lunch**

**11:30AM-1PM 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Women in Manufacturing STEP Award Recognition Luncheon**

*Join the VMA as we recognize STEP Award nominees from Virginia during a special lunch program. This year's featured speaker at the lunch is Erin Kane, President and Chief Executive Officer, Advansix Inc.*

**INNOVATION SESSION**

**1PM-2PM**

**Moderator: TBD**

**Panel:**

**MELD 3D Technology** – Nanci Hardwick, CEO, MELD Manufacturing Corporation  
*MELD is a brand new, award winning, patented method to do large scale additive manufacturing in metal. Because the process does not involve melting like traditional processes, MELD enables building, repairing, and coating parts at sizes and with materials not otherwise possible.*

**Robotiq Innovation** - Kim Nollner, Channel Sales Manager

*Robotiq is headquartered in Canada. Robotiq offers Plug + Play components for collaborative robots that are easy to use. The Robotiq tools and methodologies simplify applications so manufacturers can start production faster.*

**Blockchain Technology & Cybersecurity Training** – Matt Dunleavy, Ph.D., Executive Director, Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab

*Dr. Dunleavy will discuss blockchain technology and the IMPACT Program.*

**BUSINESS CLIMATE SESSION**

**2PM-2:30PM**

**Economic Development in Virginia & 2018 MFG Economic Impact Study**

Stephen Moret, President and CEO, VEDP (invited)

*VEDP will present the new VA MFG Economic Impact Study results as well as its new strategic plan for improving business retention and expansion, foreign direct investment and international trade in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

**2:30-3PM**

**VMA's Competitiveness Plan for 2019**

Brett Vassey, President & CEO, VMA

*Brett Vassey will present the association's 2019 legislative priorities and new initiatives that will improve Virginia's global competitiveness for investments and expansions.*