

# Foundation Update

*TMA Education Foundation and TMA members spread the word of Manufacturing Careers to Lake County Educators*

**O**n October 15<sup>th</sup>, Greta Salamando, of the TMA Education Foundation, together with Nicole Wolter of H.M. Manufacturing and Tim Doran of Tristate Machinery presented to over 45 Lake County educators at the Lake County Technology Campus. The presentation was in support of manufacturing education and careers, as well as to help educators and career counselors understand the growing need in their communities.

With over 700 manufacturing companies in Lake County, there are many businesses like H.M. Manufacturing that feel the stress of not being able to find qualified people. Manufacturing programs in high schools or educational centers like the "Tech Campus" are created for high school students to experience and learn manufacturing skills.

The presentation shed light on common manufacturing job titles along with position descriptions. Wolter and Doran both explained the basic skills needed to be successful in manufacturing. They also shared that many manufacturers invest in their staff by paying for advanced education to grow their employees' skills. Statistics were revealed on manufacturer salaries, anticipated upcoming job opportunities and ways to move up through a manufacturing career path.

"You send us your students and we'll find them good paying manufacturing jobs," stated Tim Doran. Educators

learned that the combination of hands-on training in high school manufacturing programs, relationships with the TMA Education Foundation and the support of TMA members, we can work together to create a new generation of skilled workers.

Wolter and Doran were able to use their expertise to answer questions posed regarding skills they currently look for in hiring and current pay scales. They also helped to enlighten the educators on what manufacturing is like today, the latest technology being used, and explained that manufacturing is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and manufacturing) field.

Nicole Wolter summed up the event, "The awareness and attention to manufacturing jobs and talent that is urgently needed in this industry was received with great interest and enthusiasm by Lake County high school counselors. This type of support and education to the diverse career opportunities manufacturing offers will help rebuild and recapture an industrial foundation for the future."

To support the Education Foundation or to make a donation, contact Greta Salamando, TMA Education Foundation: [gsalamando@tmaef.org](mailto:gsalamando@tmaef.org) or 847-993-2140.

*The TMA Education Foundation is dedicated to improving, sustaining, and promoting manufacturing technology education and encouraging the pursuit of careers in the industry.*

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