



NATIONAL MANUFACTURING MONTH

Did you know that October is National Manufacturing Month? In addition to a designated day (the first Friday in October), manufacturers are also celebrated throughout the entire month of October. This month is meant to bring awareness to all the career opportunities available in the manufacturing industry and to help promote innovation within the field.

However, many people are unaware how important and critical manufacturers are to the communities they serve. Those who are employed by a manufacturer help stock shelves with essential food, clothing, and goods to keep our world moving. Manufacturers also employ around 15 million Americans, mainly housed in the Midwest, helping communities everywhere receive the goods they need.

Additionally, the recent COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to light how critical these manufacturers are to our modern world. In the early stages of the pandemic, the manufacturing industry was one of the first to yield to the needs of communities. As toilet paper was flying off shelves, and people were rushing to find hand sanitizer, people in manufacturing worked overnight and weekends (while complying with regulations) to help meet the demands for these essentials. In fact, many manufacturers shifted focus and operations to meet the needs of healthcare workers, as they began production for PPE and test supplies to maintain a steady supply. Manufacturers have played a key role throughout the entirety of the

COVID-19 Pandemic, helping keep people safe and essentials readily available.

HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOW APPRECIATION?

While it might be seemingly small, one of the biggest ways you can show your appreciation for local manufacturers is to support high school and adult training programs that local companies and schools offer. Because manufacturing often requires on the job training, there are specific programs available to folks who are looking to be hired in the industry.

Over the years, this industry has experienced challenges obtaining talent, as many people opt for the traditional college experience. As a result, there is a shortage of talent within the industry as a whole, leaving over 2 million positions unfilled.

If you're interested in pursuing a career in the manufacturing industry, here's a source for manufacturing programs in [Illinois](#) and [Wisconsin](#). Additionally, if you have kids that are preparing to graduate high school in the coming months, and as you continue to [put away money for their future](#), remember that there are career options outside of the traditional path. Do some research and look at options. If your child is interested in learning more about what careers are available within the manufacturing industry, request resources from local training programs.