



# 2025 MFG DAY

## TRMA and JJC Ignite the Future Workforce at 10th Annual Manufacturing Day

The Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association (TRMA) and Joliet Junior College (JJC) proudly celebrated a milestone—the 10th Annual Manufacturing Day—on October 7, 2025. This year's event set new benchmarks in student engagement, welcoming 1,000 students from 18 high schools across Will and Grundy counties.

More than 45 local manufacturing companies exhibited today's evolving workforce needs and gave students a first-hand look at exciting career pathways in automation, robotics, engineering, skilled trades, process technology, safety, and more.

### Inspiring Local Leadership

Instead of a traditional keynote format, this year's event featured multiple industry-leading voices who energized and challenged students to imagine their future in manufacturing:

- Jim Cristman, TRMA Chairman & CITGO Lemont Refinery Manager - emphasized the strength and opportunity within local industry
- Dr. Clyne Namuo, President of JJC - welcomed students, highlighting JJC's role in technical education and workforce readiness
- Dave Boulay, President of IMEC - shared insights on The Next Generation of Manufacturing
- Mark Denzler, President of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association - spoke on The Future of Manufacturing in Illinois
- State Representative Dee Avelar, 85th District - encouraged students to pursue careers that support strong local communities
- Kayla Sorenson & Jailen Bey - energized the audience with an interactive session that sparked creativity, confidence, and excitement for their futures

### Hands-On Discovery

Through immersive activities and technology demos, students gained a deeper understanding of how advanced manufacturing is shaping the world—and how they can be part of it. Exhibitors showcased cutting-edge tools, real-world problem solving, and the wide variety of rewarding roles that exist within the sector.

### Fueling Local Opportunity

Manufacturing remains one of the region's most critical economic engines. TRMA Executive Director Ray Woodworth emphasized the initiative's mission: building a skilled and motivated future workforce right here at home.

By connecting students with employers early—and showing them that great careers exist in their own backyard—TRMA, JJC, and local manufacturers are investing in stronger career pathways, stronger companies, and stronger communities.



