



# The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

October 2024

Dear Associates,

This month has been packed with events, business meetings, strategic planning, and progress on our automotive study in Northwest Ohio. In this issue, you'll find a detailed overview of our Advanced Manufacturing Summit that was held earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who supported the event through sponsorship, participation, and content development.

We're pleased to share that we're already seeing positive outcomes from the summit. Two companies are interested in implementing AI on the plant floor and within their organizational policies, with guidance from the Center. Additionally, one attendee has made a valuable connection with Toyota through our keynote speaker, and another company that specializes in 3D process control has connected with potential customers. These small but significant wins reflect the Center's goal of fostering collaboration and connecting manufacturing leaders to drive continuous improvement.

With overwhelmingly positive feedback, we're already planning for next year's summit, looking to expand on this year's success. Stay tuned for more AI-focused content as we explore the role of AI in manufacturing—an area of clear interest from this year's summit.

Sincerely,



Tim Mayle  
Executive Director  
419-788-0490



## Site Visits & Meetings

### Buckeye Machine Fabricators

The Center and Buckeye Machine Fabricators began discussions in September to identify ways to build a pipeline of skilled talent. In early October, the Center gathered representatives from Owens Community College, Regional Growth Partnership, Raise the Bar Hancock County, and Midwest Regional Education Service Center to further discuss workforce resources available in the region.

*A roundtable discussion was held at Buckeye Machine Fabricators headquarters in Forest, Ohio.*



### Custom Glass Solutions

This summer, the Center and the Northwest Ohio Innovation Consortium, representing the Glass Innovation Hub, met with Custom Glass Solutions. As a result, Mayle attended their BallisTech™ demonstration in Columbus. Through a collaboration with Dana Safety Supply, Custom Glass Solutions created BallisTech™, a bulletproof glass that enables officers to fire weapons through the same window that shields them. This innovation will significantly enhance the safety of law enforcement.



*Mayle posing with State Representative Riordan McClain, Wyandot County Economic Development Director Gregory Moon, and Custom Glass Solutions CEO Matt Dietrich at the demonstration.*

## Introductory Remarks

The Center hosted our inaugural Advanced Manufacturing Summit on Thursday, October 10 at the Findlay Country Club. Center Executive Director, Tim Mayle (*pictured right*) kicked off the event with an overview of the Center, highlighting the structure, as well as current projects. Center Program Manager, Ford Weber shared an update of the Center's regional automotive research study, which focuses on inventorying, assessing, and making recommendations to automotive manufacturing facilities in Northwest Ohio. Weber emphasized the role of local economic development partners in this process. The study is expected to conclude by year-end, and results will be shared with stakeholders.



## Keynote Speaker: Bryan Clem



Senior Manager of Risk Management at Toyota, Bryan Clem (*pictured left*), discussed five key factors driving businesses, including executive action, cybercrime, natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, and legislation. He emphasized Toyota's core principles of continuous improvement and respect for people, highlighting the vital role suppliers play in the company's success. Clem also outlined Toyota's approach to supply chain mapping, which helps manage risks like natural disasters, tariffs, and cyber threats. He encouraged companies to proactively address potential disruptions while maintaining strong relationships with employees and suppliers to foster resilience and growth.

## Manufacturing Breakout Sessions

Following Bryan's keynote, the room was split in half, with facilitated breakout sessions on the "people" and "operations" side of manufacturing.

The "people" discussions, led by Regional Growth Partnership President/CEO, Dean Monske (*pictured right*) and Regional Talent Manager, Jeff Sprague, focused on the workforce challenges and opportunities within manufacturing. Key topics included the impact of COVID-19 on employee retention, remote work, and skill development. Participants discussed the need for succession planning, upskilling, and automation to fill gaps caused by an aging workforce. Additional challenges like work ethic shifts, leadership gaps, and recruiting younger talent were highlighted. Emphasis was placed on fostering relationships, continuous improvement, and engaging younger employees through internships and mentorships to ensure long-term retention.



The session on the "operations" side of manufacturing, led by CEO<sup>8</sup> Consulting Owner, Chris Ostrander (*pictured right*), and President/Owner of Kata Solution LLC, Bryan Litte (*pictured right*) explored key topics such as supply chain management, energy usage, lean manufacturing, automation, and sustainability. The importance of digitization and artificial intelligence (AI) in optimizing operations, reducing costs, and enhancing productivity was emphasized. Participants also discussed inflation's impact on manufacturing and the necessity of continuous improvement. The conversation highlighted the need for companies to invest in both technology and people, balancing innovation with workforce engagement to maintain operational excellence and long-term sustainability.





Higher Education Panel

The higher education panel, led by Ohio Director of Development Lydia Mihalik, featured Bowling Green State University President Rodney Rogers, University of Findlay President Katherine Fell, and Owens Community College Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Michael Pfahl.

The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration between higher education institutions and industries in Ohio. Each institution shared how they align their programs, internships, and co-ops with industry needs, particularly in manufacturing and workforce development. Key topics included experiential learning, industry partnerships, and innovative approaches to addressing workforce gaps, with an emphasis on preparing students for in-demand sectors.



Networking

The event concluded with an opportunity for attendees to network and enjoy appetizers, providing an engaging atmosphere after a day of insightful discussions about the manufacturing industry.



Thank you to our generous sponsors for your support!

Networking Sponsor



Community Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors





## Regional Growth Partnership & JobsOhio Quarterly Meeting

In late September, the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) and JobsOhio hosted their quarterly economic development meeting. The meeting provided a great opportunity for networking and discussion, as well as an informative presentation from JobsOhio on advanced manufacturing.

*Mayle, posing with RGP Regional Talent Manager, Jeff Sprague and RGP Real Estate Coordinator, Sarah Perrigo at the meeting.*



## Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Groundbreaking Ceremony

Center staff attended the BGSU College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering groundbreaking ceremony for the Technology Engineering Innovation Center and expansion of the existing Technology Building. This exciting development promises to bring new opportunities to BGSU students and positively impact the region. More specifically BGSU is launching three new degrees: Robotics Engineering, Electronic & Computer Engineering, and Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering. We look forward to seeing the advancements and innovations this facility will support in the future.



*BGSU Board of Trustees, staff, and students took part in the groundbreaking ceremony.*

*Mayle and BGSU College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering Dean Wael Mokhtar pose together after the groundbreaking.*



## Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Alliance (NOMA) Manufacturing Day

Center staff attended NOMA's Manufacturing Day event at the Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering on October 4. It was inspiring to see local manufacturers come together to celebrate the industry by offering students hands-on activities and sharing information about career opportunities and pathways in manufacturing.



*Center Program Manager Ford Weber, and Center Workforce Training Coordinator Jeri Steinbrook pose with Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant at the event.*

## Findlay Fukui International Business Seminar

Mayle helped welcome Japanese business executives representing manufacturing to Findlay. Each year, the University of Findlay invites young professionals from Fukui, Japan to learn about American business, culture, and language and share ideas. Attendees are able to collaborate and build relationships in the area.



*Ohio Representative Jon Cross hosted the Fukui visitors for dinner at his home during their visit.*

*Mayle and the Fukui group after enjoying dinner in downtown Findlay.*





# Happy MANUFACTURING MONTH!

Did you know? October is manufacturing month! The Center is proud to support the growth of manufacturing in our region every day, and we deeply value its contributions to Ohio's economy.

Check out these fun facts about Ohio manufacturing:

- Manufacturing is the largest of Ohio's 20 economic sectors
- The manufacturing sector is responsible for 17.5% of Ohio's Gross Domestic Product
- There are more than 690,000 manufacturing jobs in Ohio
- The manufacturing sector provides an annual payroll of \$48 billion, the highest of any Ohio industry sector.

Source: *The Ohio Manufacturers' Association Manufacturing Counts 2024 publication*



While our biggest Manufacturing Month celebration was the Advanced Manufacturing Summit in mid-October, Mayle also commemorated "Manufacturing Day" on October 4 by sharing insights on the 1330 WFIN show, Good Mornings. Tune in at minute 16 to hear his discussion [here](#).

## Ohio TechCred

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the opportunity to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. The Center recently hosted a webinar featuring presenters from the Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, providing an overview of TechCred and a question-and-answer session. To view a recording of the webinar, visit [centertoadvancemanufacturing.org/webinars/](http://centertoadvancemanufacturing.org/webinars/).



The next application round for TechCred will run from November 1 through November 29. Need assistance applying? Contact our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook!

For full program details, visit [techcred.ohio.gov](http://techcred.ohio.gov).

## Contact Us



Tim Mayle  
Executive Director  
tmayle@bgsu.edu



Ford Weber  
Program Manager of  
Econ. Dev. Partnerships  
fweber@bgsu.edu



Kassie Cooper  
Marketing Projects  
Manager  
kassiec@bgsu.edu



Jeri Steinbrook  
Workforce Training  
Coordinator  
jeris@bgsu.edu



Danielle Sidebottom  
Assistant to the  
Executive Director  
dsidebo@bgsu.edu