

January 2010

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The health of Minnesota manufacturers is vital to our state economy and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Nearly one-quarter of our members are in the manufacturing sector. We are your voice and your advocate.

This e-newsletter is distributed to keep you abreast of issues. We welcome your feedback. Please contact Jennifer Byers, vice president of external operations, at (651) 292-4673 or jbyers@mnchamber.com.

Private-sector jobs focal point of 2010 priorities

Jobs and the economy will be center stage when the 2010 Legislature convenes February 4. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's priority is sending a message that the Legislature does nothing to increase the cost of doing business and slow the recovery.

The Chamber will advance positions on approximately 50 policies. Our top five priorities are:

- Environmental permitting – Streamlining, adding certainty and reducing the cost of the environmental permitting process is important to economic development. In general, what takes months in other states can take multiple years in Minnesota.
- Repealing the nuclear ban – Eliminating this gag rule that prevents regulators from even talking about expansion of nuclear energy is necessary to ensure a reliable supply of competitively priced electricity.
- Spending/tax reform – The policy will focus on changing the budget process, enhancing productivity of state and local government, and reducing overhead costs. The Chamber also will start the discussion on tax reform intended to encourage the growth of business in Minnesota and create a more stable source of tax revenues.
- Alternative teacher licensing – Minnesota should provide alternative opportunities for college graduates and experienced professionals to gain teacher accreditation. Studies show that second to parents, quality teachers are the top predictor of student success.
- Health care reform – The potential impact of federal health care reform legislation keeps health care a priority. The Chamber will continue to monitor and support implementation of the 2008 state health care reform bill as well.

For additional information on the Chamber's legislative agenda, contact Tom Hesse, vice president of government affairs, at (651) 292-4678 or these@mnchamber.com.

EVENTS FOR MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturing perspective: cap-and-trade symposium

Thursday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.-Noon

Alexandria Technical College

Sponsors: Tri-State Manufacturers' Association, Alexandria Technical College





William Glahn, director of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, will be the keynote speaker as the symposium explores regional and national perspectives on proposed cap-and-trade legislation. Policy-makers are discussing sweeping changes to environmental laws and regulations that would be costly to all sizes and types of businesses.

Panel members will be: Rep. Mike Beard, R-Shakopee, member of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee; Tom Heller, CEO, Missouri River Energy Services; Brad Crabtree, policy director, Great Plains Institute; Al Crowser, general manager, Alexandria Light & Power.

The symposium is free. Registrations are requested; please RSVP by January 15 to Melissa Christianson at melissa@runestone.net or (800) 654-5573.

Legislators want your feedback on technical education

Thursday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis Park Place

1500 Park Place Blvd., Minneapolis

Sponsor: Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association

The need for education and industry to work together is often discussed among Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association (MPMA) and industry representatives. It's time to hear your concerns and get your questions answered so education and industry can work together effectively.

Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with Sens. Kathy Saltzman, DFL-Woodbury, and Julie Rosen, R-Fairmont. They will answer questions focusing on the manufacturing need for technical education.

Reservations are due January 15. Cost is \$45 for MPMA members and \$55 for nonmembers. [Click here](#) to register.

Learn technical education successes

Thursday, January 21, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence

7700 France Avenue, Edina

Minnesota manufacturers are increasingly concerned about the reduction and closure of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) technical education programs. We have invited Kevin Kopischke, president, and Kevin Huwe, machine tool technology instructor, from Alexandria Technical College to share their tremendous track record for building and maintaining a strong technical education program in that region. We hope to learn from their experience and help share their success with other colleges across the state.

The meeting will take place in conjunction with the Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence Advisory Board meeting. RSVP to Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnchamber.com or (651) 292-4673.

MnSCU listening sessions

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system wants to know what you think! Share your views about technical education and other issues at one of their listening sessions below.

Thursday, January 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park



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CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**

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Wednesday, January 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Minnesota State University Moorhead

Thursday, January 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Alexandria Technical College

Monday, February 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Manufacturers' Coalition

Minnesota Manufacturers' Coalition will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on February 11 at Domaille Engineering in Rochester. For more information, contact Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnychamber.com or (651) 292-4673.