Towards An American Manufacturing Renaissance

The Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council and Austin Polytech
Introduction

- The history, vision and program of the CMRC—a mix of big ideas and action;
- Austin Polytech—a new public high school in Chicago; and
- Our policy recommendations linking our education system to a new economy.
Manufacturing is at a crossroads because of public perception...
Most think factories look like this

British Insulated Cables Ltd.
Or this…

Chicago Glass Factory
Or they are all going here…
A Brief History of Manufacturing

The End.
And 98% of the following agree…

- University educators and leaders;
- Public School officials, teachers, and guidance counselors;
- Parents and Students;
- Elected officials and Policy leaders; and
- The Media.
Despite perception, manufacturing is alive in Chicago and elsewhere

- 12,000 companies in the Chicago metro-area directly employ 484,000 people;

- Create a total of 1.8 million jobs in the economy—44% of total state employment—3 jobs for every 1 mfg. job;

- An average wage of $64,000/year including benefits.
Today’s factories often look like this…
Great Jobs Going Unfilled!

- In Cook County 10,500 jobs need to be filled every year in manufacturing;
- Only 5,000 graduates available;
- In the US—unemployment is 13,000,000 yet 3,000,000 jobs are unfilled.
US Manufacturing: Vibrant but at risk

- Large, publicly-traded companies leading production off-shore driven by Wall Street;

- Public education has abandoned link to careers in modern manufacturing; and

- Government has been getting out of the way when it should be directly involved.
A fork in the road…

We have to answer the questions:

Do we accept the decline of manufacturing and society?

Or do we create the new economy?
CMRC Origins: 2001 Study on education and manufacturing

- 2001: Creating A Manufacturing Career Path System in Cook County by CLCR and Chicago Federation of Labor funded by the US Department of Labor

- High value-added manufacturing needs an educated workforce at all levels
Study on public education

- Problem isn’t education funding but school performance
- An influential tour to Germany and Denmark
- A 20 year vision for change in secondary and post-secondary education anchored in international Best Practice
Germany and Denmark: Best practice in public education

- A social partnership of labor, business, and government
- Work experience while in school
- National skill standards and credentials
- Advanced education to attract and grow advanced companies
CLCR/CFL Recommendations for Educational Reform

- Small High Schools linked to the manufacturing sector;
- Transformation of program in Community Colleges;
- Embrace national skill standards and certification in secondary and PS ed.;
- Build the broad coalition required for such deep change.
The birth of the CMRC--2005:

- Chicago Federation of Labor, the City of Chicago, the Illinois Manufacturers Association created the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council

- CMRC’s Mission: Be the Global Leader in Manufacturing Complex Products
CMRC’s Structure and Program

- Top government, community, labor, education and business leaders

- Programs in:
  - Education-secondary and post secondary;
  - Expanding market opportunities for manufacturers in renewable energy—supply chain for wind; and
  - Changing the Image of manufacturing.
The CMRC Vision

- Advanced manufacturing is the intersection of the most advanced technology, science, human innovation, work, and critical thinking.

- Advanced manufacturing = the highest fusion of public and private interests.

- Economically creates high wage jobs and only sector that can build a broad middle class—could help end poverty.
Advanced manufacturing

- Addresses the environmental crisis: Industrial developers will restore the environment—not lawyers;

- Work is transformative not toiling. Builds the fabric of society during work as well as improving the quality of life after work.
CMRC’s 1st Project: Austin Polytech—inspired by Mondragon

- Fr. Arizmendi—a new development model
- 1940s: polytechnical school-skills and values
- 1950s: a stove company and more
- 1970s: a shared bank, retail, and housing
- 100 companies employing 130,000 people
- A model for USWA and Cleveland
Austin Polytech

- A CPS Performance School--Chicago Teachers Union in design team.

- Preparing the next generation of leaders in manufacturing—not a trade school!
  - Skilled production positions
  - Management
  - Ownership
  - Policy, law, and labor rights
Austin Polytech

- College/career prep—Project Lead the Way
- Students taking advanced machining courses in Junior year—2 NIMS credentials
- 65 companies partners: Tours, jobs shadowing, mentors, internships, and summer jobs
- Promote aspirations of ownership—a club on how to start a manufacturing company
APA Re-building The Community

- Opening the Machine Shop for parents;
- Long term vision--Developing the community by attracting and starting new companies;
- Austin Renewable Energy Innovation Park;
- Delegation of students to Mondragon.
Austin Polytech “Tigers” with their robot for competition at University of Illinois
Candidate Barack Obama:

“Austin Polytech is bringing hope back to the community. That's the kind of model we'll replicate across the country when I'm president of the United States.”

Dayton Ohio, Sept. 9, 2008
1st Replication: San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Area Manufacturing Renaissance Council

- Same partnership
- APA-type school in West Oakland
- NAM Endorsed-National Skills Certification System in Community Colleges
- Focus on the East Bay
What is the “New Economy?”

- Let’s define it and make it happen! We need to become the global leader in manufacturing complex products as our New Economy.

- Our competitive advantage must be a partnership of labor, business, government and community.
Education Reform is Key

- Requires a world-class education system K-20 not just improved post-secondary

- Key Strategic Allies
  - Privately-held companies
  - Teacher’s Unions

- The NAM-endorsed Skill Certification System
A National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign

- Take it to universities and policy circles
- Challenge public misperceptions/cynicism
- Expand Demonstration Projects
- Create the New Economy—it’s in our hands
Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council

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