

PMMI Gives Workforce A JumPPstart

PMMI

Reston, Va. — They say it takes a village to raise a child. PMMI members in Milwaukee and Minneapolis would put it another way: “It takes an industry to raise a workforce.” PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies, has launched JumPPstart, an initiative that calls on members to come together to tackle what many see as a shrinking pool of qualified workers.

PMMI’s Education & Workforce Development Committee Chairman Timm Johnson, vice president, Sales & Marketing, Spee-Dee Packaging Machinery, believes perception is a critical underlying issue.

“Kids have no idea how the Cheerios get in the box, so our starting point is exposure and education. There’s a popular perception of factory work as dirty, hot and boring, but the reality is machinery manufacturers’ plants are clean and air conditioned, with new machines and challenges every day,” he says.

While the perceptions and overall availability of workers is of national concern, each JumPPstart group is a local effort, notes Maria Ferrante, vice president, Education & Workforce Development, PMMI.

“Participants realize the overall benefit their collaboration will have — to schools, students, the industry and even the economy, and they’re willing to work together to achieve it,” Ferrante says. “But they’re also local employers, hiring from a pool of local workers. JumPPstart efforts will foster the relationships that help build a pipeline for candidates.”

She adds that while PMMI is helping to organize groups, each group will rely on volunteers to accomplish its goals.

“Every locality is unique, and only local employers can truly understand what will work in their area. For JumPPstart to work, the feet on the ground need to be local,” she says.

The first two meetings took place outside Minneapolis and Milwaukee. Richard Bahr, president & CEO, MGS Machine Corporation, who hosted the Minneapolis-area meeting, says the need is urgent.

“Our industry needs good, skilled staff to meet our growth needs. Much of the training and infrastructure for education of people is in place, but educators struggle to create interest in their programs for new students. This has been a long-term problem that is getting worse — parents and educators steering children away from manufacturing careers,” says Bahr. “It’s a long-term strategy, but we must begin sometime. Like now. The trend is not in our favor to attract new people to manufacturing careers, so we must be intentional and push against this.”

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To start a Jumpstart group in your area, contact Maria Ferrante, PMMI: 703.243.8555 or mferrante@pmmi.org [1].

About PMMI

PMMI, the Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies, is a trade association representing over 600 packaging and processing supply chain companies that provide a full range of packaging and processing machinery, materials, components and containers. PMMI actively brings buyers and sellers together through programs and events such as The PACK EXPO family of trade shows, packexpo.com, PMT Magazine, PACK EXPO Show Daily, networking events and educational programs.

PMMI organizes the PACK EXPO trade shows: PACK EXPO International, PACK EXPO Las Vegas, PACK EXPO East, EXPO PACK Mexico and EXPO PACK Guadalajara, connecting participants in the packaging and processing supply chain with their customers around the world. Coming Up: PACK EXPO Las Vegas 2013 , Sept. 23-25, 2013 (Las Vegas Convention Center); EXPO PACK México 2014 , June 17-20, 2014 (Mexico City, Mexico); PACK EXPO International 2014, Nov. 2-5, 2014 (McCormick Place, Chicago); Pharma EXPO, co-located with PACK EXPO International 2014, presented jointly with the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE); PACK EXPO East, debuting Feb. 2-4, 2015 (Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia); EXPO PACK Guadalajara 2015, March 18-20, 2015 (Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico).

Learn more about PMMI and the PACK EXPO trade shows at PMMI.org [2] and Packexpo.com [3].

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Links:

[1] <mailto:mferrante@pmmi.org>

[2] <http://www.PMMI.org>

[3] <http://www.Packexpo.com>