

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coordinator

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What: More than 100 eighth grade students will get a hands-on look at Iowa's largest industry at a Manufacturing Showcase hosted by the [Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Advanced Manufacturing Sector Board](#). The event will be held at [Eastern Iowa Community Colleges'](#) John T. Blong Technology Center. Multiple employers, including Deere and Company and Sterilite, will demonstrate manufacturing technologies and processes to increase awareness of the possible career opportunities within the manufacturing industry. Students will have the opportunity to experience the technologies, hands-on, by touring 10 interactive booths. These booths will consist of technical simulations, videos, virtual reality and more. The event is part of a nationwide effort to celebrate [Manufacturing Day](#) and National Manufacturing Month, which is in October.

Who: Davenport Mayor, Frank Klipsch and Sector Board Chair, Mandy Parchert will give the welcome remarks. Members of the Manufacturing Sector Board will also be on hand to answer questions, along with representatives from Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and the following companies: HNI Corporation, Deere and Company, Lincoln Electric, Sterilite, M.A. Ford, SSAB, RILCO, Black Cat Wear Parts, Rock Island Arsenal – Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, and Western Illinois University/Quad City Manufacturing Lab.

When: Tuesday, October 9 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: John T. Blong Technology Center, 8500 Hillandale Rd., Davenport, IA

Manufacturing Fast Facts:

Manufacturing is Iowa's largest industry, contributing \$28 billion annually to the state's economy

- As of June 2018, the average salary of a full-time manufacturing employee was approximately \$65,000
- Today's manufacturing environment is clean, highly technical, and fast paced with strong safety regulations
- Over the next decade nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will be needed
- The manufacturing industry offers career opportunities at every education level
- Many manufacturing companies, educational institutions, and state agencies provide financial support to students pursuing a career in manufacturing