



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MANUFACTURERS LOOKING TO EXPAND THEIR WORKFORCE

El Cajon – Manufacturers across the nation are working hard to get the word out that Manufacturing is thriving— San Diego County manufacturers are no exception. Santee-based Quality Controlled Manufacturing Inc (QCMI) had to turn business away in 2011 because they couldn't find qualified workers. In response, the East County Economic Development Council (ECEDC) is planning a tour of local manufacturing facilities to expose veterans and jobseekers to the Manufacturing sector.

The next Manufacturers Tour and Panel presented by Wells Fargo will take place on Friday, October 25, 2013 from 8:15 am to 1:35 pm. Participants will tour two East County manufacturing facilities: Deering Banjos, Spring Valley's premier maker of world-class banjos, and QCMI, a precision machining manufacturer. Following the tours, participants will attend a lunch panel and hear from industry leaders about careers in the manufacturing sector, required skills, and training opportunities.

“The manufacturing sector in San Diego, especially in East County, has been having a difficult time finding personnel. They have reported that their growth projections, improving as the country emerges from the Great Recession and as their customers re-shore component fabrication from overseas, may be adversely affected by the scarcity of skilled labor. In addition, manufacturers are increasingly concerned about their current workforce nearing retirement age without a reliable pipeline of skilled employees to replace aging-out workers,” said Jo Marie Diamond, ECEDC President and CEO.

“Our company has been growing in operations. We need employees and cannot seem to find qualified individuals fast enough,” said Rick Urban, Chief Operating Officer at QCMI. Urban chairs the ECEDC's subcommittee that has been planning this series of tours and has been pushing efforts to engage job seekers in the manufacturing sector. QCMI made the Inc. 500/5000 list of America's Fastest Growing Private Companies and recently announced the hiring of its 100th employee.

Nationwide, manufacturing employees earn a higher average salary and receive greater benefits than workers in other industries. SANDAG's Industry Cluster Report identified over 4,000 jobs in the Advanced Precision Manufacturing industry, with an average wage in San Diego County as \$51,800. With the manufacturing sector continuing to grow locally and nationally, there are numerous opportunities for individuals with strong problem solving, technical, and the math skills. Attendees of the Manufacturers Tour and Panel will learn where they can go to obtain training, network with local manufacturers, and learn what manufacturers are looking for in a future employee. To register for this tour, at no-cost, visit www.eastcountyedc.org.

About the *Careers in Manufacturing Series* – The *Careers in Manufacturing Series* is a collaborative effort. Partners organizing Tours and Panels include the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, Cuyamaca College, East County Career Center, East County Economic Development Council, Grossmont Union High School District, Public Consulting Group, Quality Controlled Manufacturing Inc., and Wells Fargo. The October 25th tour will be the third of the Manufacturers Tour and Panel series. The Manufacturers Tour and Panel is sponsored by Wells Fargo and Cuyamaca College. Additional sponsorships are available for future tours.

About ECEDC – The East County Economic Development Council (ECEDC) is a dynamic, award-winning, non-profit organization of leaders committed to a healthy, vital economic climate and quality of life in the East County San Diego region. For additional information, please visit the East County Economic Development Council at www.eastcountyedc.org.

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