

VMEC Hosted/ Co-Hosted/ Company-Sponsored/ Other MFG Day/ Month 2024 Events and Activities

Governor Phil Scott proclaimed October 2024 Manufacturing Month in Vermont The entire month of October has become part of a growing national MFG Day/ Month initiative. Vermont Governor Phil Scott once again proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month in Vermont; read the full proclamation [here](#).

VT-based companies who hosted MFG Day events



[Hubbardton Forge](#) - Celebrating their 50th Anniversary, Hubbardton Forge, a premium lighting manufacturer in Castleton, opened its doors to the community on October 10 and conducted plant tours for over 250 guests. Among those attending were HF's original founders. CEO, Maria Mullen and VP of Operations, Steve Wieggers, welcomed the opportunity to showcase employees' talent as they demonstrated forging, welding, finishing, assembling, packing and more throughout the celebration.

[Maple Landmark](#) - On the "official" MFG Day, Friday, October 4, this Middlebury-based maker of high-quality wooden toys and educational and novelty wooden products, hosted several people for tours, leaf peepers included, who just happened to be in the state for our fantastic foliage season. Also, Lt. Governor David Zuckerman and Fauna Hurley, Business Liaison for U.S. Senator Peter Welch, were among Maple Landmark's guests for the day. Area school groups will tour the facility later in the semester.

[Fab-Tech Inc.](#) - Also hosting events on October 4 was Colchester's Fab-Tech, a leading manufacturer of PermaShield Pipe (PSP®), a Factory Mutual approved system of stainless steel corrosive fume exhaust duct.

[Chroma Technology Corp.](#) - A leading provider of precision-engineered optical filters based in Bellows Falls, Chroma hosted two full days of activities for its employees and invited VMEC to share the day with them on October 3! Events included a chili cookoff, manufacturing tours of the production floor including new and improved spectral equipment as well as new laser markers and configuring tools. Presentations and interactive displays from Sales and Marketing, Wellness, Employee Ownership, Maintenance, Engineering and VMEC captured the afternoon's events. And on October 4, Chroma hosted 10 students from the Bellows Falls Union High School who had the opportunity to tour the facility and view various displays. Also in attendance were Town of Rockingham and Village of Bellows Falls Municipal Manager Scott Pickup and Vermont State Representatives Leslie Goldman and Michelle Bos-Lun.



Radio, TV, Print

[WVMT The Morning Drive, September 19](#) - VMEC's Louis Prue joined co-hosts Kurt Wright and Anthony Neri to talk about "all things manufacturing" in the Green Mtn. State.

[WDEV Common Sense Radio, October 7 \(no tape available\)](#) - VMEC's Brett Ference joined host Bill Sayre for the annual hour-long program to recognize and honor the importance of manufacturing in the Vermont economy.

[WCAX "Hubbardton Forge celebrating 50th anniversary", October 10](#)

[Seven Days "Vermont Manufacturers Meet to Address Labor Shortage", October 23](#)

Advanced Manufacturing Day - Can We Make It? - Generator Makerspace, October 10

VMEC and [Generator Makerspace](#) played co-hosts for roughly 70 attendees at this exciting event held at the Generator's Burlington location that focused on the importance of careers in manufacturing. Along with networking opportunities, facility tours, co-working space demonstrations and a resource area, a main focus of the afternoon centered around a panel discussion with VT-based manufacturing leaders who addressed topics such as adapting to the rapid pace of technological change, partnering and collaborating across organizations, hiring and upskilling their current workforce and much more.



Moderated by Kevin Chu, Executive Director, [Vermont Futures Project](#), the presentation portion of the program began with Tinotenda Rutanhira, Executive Director, Business Development and Co-Founder, [VT-Professionals of Color Network](#), who offered an overview of VTPOC's new program, [Newcomer Nexus](#). The panel included (L-R) Diane Abruzzini, COO and Co-Founder, [Rigorous Technology](#); Kalyrn Bixler, Global Director of Manufacturing, [OnLogic](#); Julie LaForce, President & Director of Organizational Development, [Built By Newport](#) and Sarah DeShaw, Team Member, Workforce Development, [BETA Technologies](#). So many thanks to all for their time, effort and interest in Advanced Manufacturing!

Learning Opportunities

Lean 101 Food Production Fundamentals, October 15 - VMEC was pleased to announce their newest training offering to Vermont manufacturers who have their focus in the food manufacturing operations area. Whether you grow, bake, mix, package, retail, wholesale or warehouse "it", Lean 101 Food Production Fundamentals with B-TARTS is for you! Taking the roots from our standard and popular Lean 101 Fundamentals learning opportunity, we focused on aspects such as Value Stream Mapping - Current and Future States, 8 Wastes, Basic Lean Tools, Problem Solving and Continuous Improvement, Workplace Organization and Visual Controls. And then we took it one step further by customizing this offering to what's in the best interest of VT food producers to help them with their workflow challenges, eliminating waste in their processes and systems and so much more. BTW, this inaugural session "sold out" so fast, we're offering another one on **December 5 in the NEK**; sign up soon at [this link](#)!



Workforce and Training Solutions for the Manufacturing Industry, October 17 - Led by [Jacky Larson](#), Tooling U-SME Senior Workforce Education Strategist, and [Carla Wuthrich](#), VMEC Director of Field Operations, the hour-long session (click [here](#) for its recording) covered online manufacturing programs available through Tooling U-SME and VMEC such as Machining, Industrial Maintenance/Mechatronics, Smart Manufacturing and more. These readily available programs are aligned to industry certifications and the most pressing needs of small and medium-sized manufacturers. Contact Carla for further information so you may begin to benefit from the vast selection of valuable training modules!



Images courtesy of Generator Makerspace and Hubbardton Forge