



Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEWIDE TOURS & EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2015 MANUFACTURING DAY/MONTH ON OCT. 2

FLATE, the Florida-based, National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence in Manufacturing, along with its network of statewide partners is leading a statewide campaign to make Manufacturing Day/Month another successful event in Florida. On October 2, as part of the fourth, annual Manufacturing Day celebrations, FLATE in conjunction with Regional Manufacturers Associations (RMAs), Florida TRADE and the Manufacturers Association of Florida will launch a multi-pronged, statewide outreach campaign that is poised to position Florida as a national leader for hosting and organizing Manufacturing Day events and industry tours. As part of this effort, middle and high school students and educators across Florida will participate in *Made in Florida* industry tours that are designed to showcase, educate and heighten students', educators' and the community's knowledge about educational opportunities and high-skill careers in high-tech manufacturing.

Made in Florida industry tours for Manufacturing Day will kick start on October 2 with additional tours planned throughout October. Additionally, FLATE will help connect school with

companies, assist in media/outreach, and design and deliver Manufacturing Day-themed t-shirts to all participants and tour hosts. To assess the overall impact of Manufacturing Day and industry tours, FLATE will once again survey industry hosts, educators and students who participate in the *Made in Florida* industry tours.

There are several ways and opportunities for industry, RMAs, school districts, educators, students and the community to get involved/engaged in #MFGDay2015. They can:

1. Adopt a school and host/coordinate a *Made in Florida* industry tour, or an open house for students and educators in their region.
2. School districts can provide transportation and chaperones for students
3. Sponsor a luncheon for students who are visiting the industry site
4. Support the cost of Manufacturing Day in Florida T-shirts that sponsors, industry hosts, educators and students wear during and after the tour.
5. Get a county commission proclamation for Manufacturing Day

Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE says Manufacturing Day 2015 is geared to stir interest and/or change perceptions about manufacturing on a national level, and also build in-roads and sustainable partnerships between manufacturers, RMAs, educators, and students.

FLATE's strategy has successfully and consistently placed Florida at the top spot for hosting/coordinating Manufacturing Day events in the nation. "The Center's ongoing efforts have focused on leveraging the promotion of the national organization and its efforts through best practices implemented in Florida, and create a common platform that has encouraged a steady increase in statewide participation for Manufacturing Day" said Barger. FLATE hopes the initiative will serve as a vehicle in educating students, educators and the community about

high-tech manufacturing/STEM-related careers, and also boost the overall effectiveness of Manufacturing Day through “*Made in Florida*” industry tours.

Anyone interested and engaged in high-tech manufacturing and promoting STEM-based careers and educational pathways is invited and encouraged to ‘Join the Movement’ to celebrate Manufacturing Day. For information and regionally coordinated Manufacturing Day 2015 news and events, visit the *Made in Florida* page at www.madeinflorida.org/manufacgturing-day. For information on national manufacturing day events/news visit www.mfgday.com. You can also email Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE at barger@fl-ate.org and Nina Stokes, FLATE project manager at stokes@fl-ate.org. We look forward to everyone’s participation in Florida’s Manufacturing Day celebrations.

FLATE is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 46 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information visit www.fl-ate.org.

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