

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, manufacturing has historically represented one of the largest sectors in the Illinois economy, and today contributes hundreds of billions of dollars in economic output annually; powering Illinois' position as a top five exporter in the nation with Illinois-made goods found worldwide enriching the lives of the global population; and,

WHEREAS, more than 18,000 manufacturers call Illinois home and provide employment for more than 550,000 of our family and neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has reached significant milestones towards overcoming COVID-19, thanks in large part to the heroic efforts of nearly 1,500 manufacturers and distributors who came forward to provide the state of Illinois with critically indispensable supplies and protective equipment needed by frontline medical and public safety personnel, developed life-saving medicines and diagnostic tools, and took extraordinary steps to ensure our food supply remained safe and plentiful; and,

WHEREAS, by working together, manufacturers, educational institutions, state agencies, industry associations, and the public workforce system can collaboratively enhance the skills of the state's manufacturing labor force, connect today's youth with tomorrow's advanced manufacturing careers, and develop successful apprenticeship frameworks to ensure the ongoing prosperity of Illinois' manufacturing ecosystem; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has taken concerted steps to boost access to workforce training statewide to further increase diversity of the manufacturing industry through new programs such as: the Downstate Manufacturing Training Academies established with community college partners in the Central and Southern Illinois regions, the Apprenticeship Tax Credit program designed to build a pipeline of trained talent, and increased funding for Local Workforce Agencies; and,

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the urgent demand for new talent, Illinois continues to attract major new capital investment from leading worldwide manufacturers, including major investments and hiring from scores of companies during 2020 alone; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize with deep appreciation the vital role of manufacturing in every Illinois community and its ongoing contributions to our economy; and,

WHEREAS, Manufacturing Month is an opportunity for employers, employees, students, educators, and all residents to celebrate the contributions manufacturers make every day to enhance the culture, pride and success of our communities in Illinois - Illinois' manufacturers continue to grow and thrive in Illinois, and we will continue to support and highlight their talented workforce as they innovate and showcase emerging technologies and career pathways here in Illinois;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as **Manufacturing Month** and encourage local collaborative efforts to encourage entry into well-paying, advanced manufacturing careers, to attract new investment in our communities, and to enhance the industry's overall value to Illinois and our economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-EIGHTH *day of* SEPTEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-ONE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and THIRD.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR