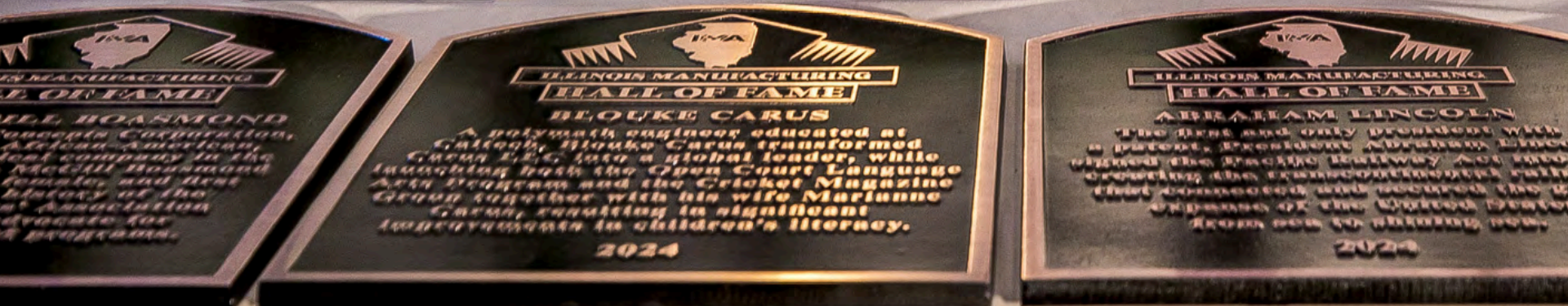




ILLINOIS  
MANUFACTURERS'  
ASSOCIATION

# 2024 Annual Report



“In an ever-changing world with new laws, policies, and regulations, the IMA is the first to get us important updates, as well as lobby on our behalf. Whenever I reach out to the IMA, I receive some of the fastest replies and always trust the information I receive. I suggest every manufacturer in the state of Illinois join this organization – the value far exceeds the price!”

**-MEGAN PARSONS**

VP OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE LIBMAN COMPANY

“I was privileged to be Chair of the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association at a time when the pandemic created the greatest health and economic challenges in generations. This network demonstrated how we can share knowledge, strategies, and best practices to understand, adjust, and meet the essential expectations that were needed at that time. Being a part of the IMA is just good business.”

**-LINDA BOASMOND**

PRESIDENT, CEDAR CONCEPTS CORPORATION

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## INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association is **BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD** and proudly stands shoulder to shoulder with American manufacturers who are leading our state and nation forward.

This 2024 Annual Report highlights a year that showcased amazing innovation and resiliency by Illinois manufacturers. Time and treasure are precious commodities, and we value your investment in the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

In 2024, the IMA along with DCEO launched a \$7 million "Make it in Illinois" campaign to attract the next generation of workers, published the 4th annual "Made in Illinois" poster, and hosted the 5th annual "Makers Madness – The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois" competition presented by Comcast Business. We also celebrated Manufacturing Month with a record-breaking 3rd annual Makers on the Move bus tour with our partners at the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center and launched the "Manufacturing Cares" program to highlight the sector's community contributions.

Ensuring that manufacturers have access to timely and accurate information is paramount. Whether it is seminars on new labor laws or HR rules, our Workers' Compensation, Environment, or Tax Conferences, or the popular Executive Forum and CFO Roundtables, the IMA provides information allowing manufacturers to operate safely and in full compliance with rules and regulations. The IMA Education Foundation continues to serve as the single unifying voice to bring together manufacturers, educators, and economic development officials to address workforce challenges.

I'm very proud that the IMA is evolving and standing by your side every single day and I can't wait for you to see what the future brings!



"Our team worked from the White House to the State House to City Hall to affect public policy decisions with a special focus on education and workforce development. Our work is bearing fruit. There is no doubt that the IMA is leading industry efforts to create a world-class workforce system."

-MARK DENZLER, PRESIDENT & CEO



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For 2024 and 2025, the IMA Board of Directors is chaired by Renee Togher, President of Azteca Foods, Inc. in Chicago, a family-owned business and leading manufacturer of tortilla products. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Togher has been recognized by Today's Chicago Woman magazine as one of "100 Women Making a Difference" and is an active volunteer in school, church, and youth activities in her community. Togher currently serves on the Advisory Board of First Women's Bank and is a past Director of MB Financial, Inc. She has also served on boards for numerous non-profit organizations, including Access Living, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Mercy Hospital. She is also a former Trustee of DePaul University. Togher is the first Hispanic to serve as IMA's Board Chair.

## 2024 IMA BOARD OFFICERS

**Chair:** Renee Togher, Azteca Foods, Inc., Chicago

**Vice Chair:** Kara Demirjian Huss, TCCI Manufacturing LLC, Decatur

**Treasurer:** Tom Welge, Gilster-Mary Lee, Chester

**Secretary:** Sarah Hartwick, IMA VP for Education & Workforce Policy



## ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COMPANY

The Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) is the recipient 2024 of the Barry L. MacLean Manufacturer of the Year Award. A global leader in human and animal nutrition, ADM's unrelenting drive and commitment has been demonstrated in their focus on bioprocessing including the iFAB tech hub designation, sustainability and regenerative agriculture, investments in cutting-edge food and agriculture technology startups, and clean energy technology.

The award is presented each year in recognition of a company's leadership in advocating for the manufacturing industry at the local and national level; excellence in creating a lasting impact on stakeholders, companies, and markets; commitment to innovation, research and development or technological advancement; workforce development and diversity; long-term commitment to charitable and philanthropic efforts; and support for sustainable methods of production in their operations.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association as the 2024 Manufacturer of the Year," said Chris Cuddy, Senior Vice President, President, Carbohydrate Solutions for ADM. "This achievement is a true testament to all our talented, diverse, and dedicated colleagues who work every day to unlock the power of nature to enrich the quality of life around the world, and who help build a culture of innovation that continues to drive our strategy forward. We are grateful to the IMA for honoring our achievements and contributions to the manufacturing industry."



"As a global leader in human and animal nutrition, ADM's unrelenting drive and commitment has been demonstrated in their focus on bioprocessing including the iFAB tech hub designation, sustainability and regenerative agriculture, investments in cutting-edge food and agriculture technology startups, and clean energy technology. We are proud to recognize ADM as a best-in-class manufacturer."

-MARK DENZLER, PRESIDENT & CEO



# BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD





Marsha Serlin of United Scrap Metal, Inc.  
accepts the Janice M. Christiansen Leadership  
Award



## JANICE M. CHRISTIANSEN LEADERSHIP AWARD



In the spring of 2023, Illinois lost a true trailblazer and passionate manufacturing advocate with the passing of Janice M. Christiansen following a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

In honor of Janice, the IMA created the Janice M. Christiansen Leadership Award that is awarded every year to a female leader exemplifying Janice's passion and dedication to women in manufacturing. The first award was presented posthumously to her son, Spencer Christiansen, at the 2023 IMA Annual Luncheon.

This year, the IMA proudly presented the 2024 Janice M. Christiansen Award this year to Marsha Serlin, President & CEO of United Scrap Metal, Inc.

Nearly fifty years ago, Marsha envisioned the creation of a recycling company that would thrive off exceptional customer service and satisfaction. Through hard work and sacrifice, United Scrap Metal, Inc., is now an award-winning organization with eight locations across the United States, employing hundreds of people.

Marsha is a successful business leader of one of the largest and fastest-growing, privately held providers of recycling solutions in the United States and a dedicated philanthropist who supports more than 100 local and national non-profit organizations.

# ADVOCACY







THE IMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM IS THE STATE'S LEADING BUSINESS ADVOCATE, SPEAKING WITH A UNIFIED VOICE TO ENSURE MANUFACTURERS' INTERESTS ARE HEARD BY STATE POLICYMAKERS.

## FY 2024 BUDGET

In a more turbulent budget year, Illinois legislators passed, and Governor JB Pritzker signed a \$53.3 billion budget against \$53.1 billion in spending, an increase of \$1.1 billion over the last fiscal year. While elected officials were originally faced with a nearly \$1 billion shortfall, several revenue-generating items were included in budget complementary legislation, including an extension of the net operating loss deduction cap, changes to the corporate franchise tax, and an extensive restructuring of the retailers' discount and transaction fees, among several other changes.

While the IMA was disappointed with the revenue-generating items considered and passed in the final hours of the spring legislative session, the IMA also found success in securing a reappropriation of \$7 million for the manufacturing jobs campaign that provides for a statewide marketing campaign for manufacturing jobs. The IMA also championed an early 5-year extension of the Research & Development tax credit that will now be extended through the end of 2032, a doubling of the Corporate Franchise Tax exemption from \$5,000 to \$10,000 that will benefit 317,000 Illinois businesses and an economic package that will allow for a new \$500 million Quantum Campus on Chicago's south side.



## BUSINESS INCENTIVE PACKAGE

Throughout session, the IMA worked with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to establish a framework of benefits that would help grow manufacturing, make Illinois a more business-friendly state, and establish that quantum computing is a priority in Illinois. Those discussions led to an extension of the state's research & development tax credit, an expanded EDGE program to increase credit eligibility and length in order to attract larger-scale projects, and expanded the MICRO Program to include semiconductors, quantum computing, and microchip companies in the R&D phase, among others.

## FOOD ADDITIVES

The IMA led efforts to successfully stop legislation that would have banned the manufacture and sale of food products containing certain additives (brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben, and/or red dye 3). The IMA sprang into action and met with legislators, testified in committees, and worked closely with allies to stop the bill and to stop efforts to amend the bill to also ban the use of titanium dioxide in food. The IMA message to leave food regulations up to the scientists and experts at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and not create a patchwork of regulations across the country resonated with legislators.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

For the past several years, environmental groups have been pushing the democratic-majority General Assembly to pass burdensome permitting laws to hinder industrial growth in the name of environmental justice. The IMA once again led a coalition of business groups to prevent the passage of oppressive environmental justice legislation and has helped to shape the discussion that economic justice must be considered in the same vein as environmental justice.

The IMA and its members understand the importance of a clean environment for all people. That is why the IMA continues to lead efforts in passing business-backed environmental justice legislation that protects community members while providing clarity and consistency to manufacturers who are seeking permits from the Illinois EPA.

## CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE

This past year, the IMA focused on getting smart and sensible regulations surrounding carbon capture and storage (CCS) into state statute. To help with this endeavor, the IMA co-founded the Capture Jobs Now Coalition which consisted of a wide group of supporters from business organizations and individual companies to organized labor and agricultural groups, all focused on helping the state take advantage of federal dollars and become a leader in CCS. Through the leadership of the IMA and our coalition, legislation was passed and signed into law that establishes a regulatory framework to smartly and safely advance carbon capture and storage in Illinois, which will help the state meet clean energy goals while promoting economic development and creating new jobs. The bill contains strong landowner protections, a short moratorium on CO2 pipelines, strong safety measures and environmental protections, and a framework that will allow CCS to flourish in Illinois.

## PFAS LEGISLATION

The IMA played an integral role in stopping legislation this past session that would have put restrictions or requirements on manufacturers that make products containing intentionally added Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals. Another victory the IMA achieved was stopping legislation that authorized the Illinois EPA to participate in a safe chemical clearinghouse and directed manufacturers of PFAS or products or product components containing intentionally added PFAS to register those products with the clearinghouse. The IMA also helped to stop legislation that would have restricted the sale of certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS.







## DAY & TEMP LABORERS

A year after legislators passed, and the Governor signed sweeping changes to Illinois' Day and Temporary Labor Services Act, requiring that staffing agencies pay their employees who are assigned to a client for more than 90 calendar days the same level of pay and benefits as regular employees of the business that have the same level of seniority and are performing the same or substantially similar work, the IMA jumped into action to bring changes to the troubling law. After months of negotiations, the IMA was able to secure helpful changes to the law, including changing the 90 days to 720 hours, allowing employers to choose how staffing agencies are to determine a comparative, exempting collectively bargained units, and clarifying that it is the sole responsibility of staffing agencies to determine a comparative salary once information is provided by employers. These changes shift liability away from employers and onto staffing agencies.

While the IMA opposed the underlying law, the changes made this session provide some relief to employers who utilize day and temporary employees. The IMA was also successful in blocking legislation that would have provided a workaround to a recent injunction by a federal judge that prohibits the State of Illinois from enforcing the equal benefits portion of the underlying law.

## JUNK FEES

The IMA joined a broad coalition of business groups and individual companies that opposed legislation restricting so-called "junk fees" or "hidden fees." The legislation was aimed at preventing processing and transaction fees while ensuring that advertised prices of goods reflect the total cost of a purchase. The IMA adamantly opposed the legislation and highlighted that the bill lacked consideration for the many factors that go into a product's price and failed to recognize federal authority in these matters when it comes to certain industries. In the end, the bill did not move, and the IMA will continue to fight this issue.

## WETLANDS

The IMA opposed legislation that was introduced this year that would expand regulations on wetlands in Illinois following a Supreme Court ruling. In May of 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court released its ruling on *Sackett v. EPA*. The decision dramatically narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act and limited the authority of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate the nation's waterways. Since the decision, environmental groups across the country have been attempting to move the wetland regulations into state statute while also expanding them. The IMA put the force of the association into the issue and along with many in the business community, stopped the bill from advancing out of either chamber.





## ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING CAUCUS

This year, the IMA, in partnership with members of the Illinois General Assembly, formed a new bipartisan and bicameral legislative caucus - the Illinois Manufacturing Caucus (IMC). The IMC was created to further educate elected officials about the critical role of manufacturing in our economy and key policies impacting the industrial sector.

In an effort to discuss issues important to the state's manufacturing sector and bring together legislators with individual manufacturers, industry experts, and other business groups, the IMC held monthly meetings that covered topics such as workforce development, pharmaceutical legislation, carbon capture and storage, and legislation introduced by the Illinois General Assembly. Robust discussions and networking helped to bring several issues to the forefront for countless legislators from both sides of the aisle. Through these monthly meetings, nearly half of the Illinois General Assembly learned directly from the IMA and manufacturers about issues important to industry in Illinois.









## TRADE MISSIONS

Illinois is the largest exporting state in the Midwest and the 4th largest in the nation, underscoring the importance of global trade on the state's manufacturing sector. Export activities support more than 800,000 jobs in Illinois while in-state companies exported more than \$78 billion worth of goods and services, primarily manufactured products.

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association actively participated in several trade missions in the last years to help attract foreign direct investment to Illinois while expanding and growing markets abroad for Illinois companies.

As the only statewide business organization on these trade missions, the IMA traveled with Governor JB Pritzker and other members of "Team Illinois" including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Intersect Illinois to Canada, Great Britain, and Japan. Each of these trade missions focused on manufacturing, clean energy, and quantum.





## BUSINESS DAY 2024

Nearly four hundred business leaders convened in Springfield on Wednesday, May 1, for the IMA's Annual Business Day at the Capitol, in partnership with the Illinois Retail Merchants Association. Job creators gathered in the state's Capitol to demonstrate the importance of business and industry. This is the largest annual gathering of job creators for the purposes of Illinois state advocacy. Keynote speaker for the luncheon was Governor JB Pritzker with enlightening panels featuring conversations with Senate President Don Harmon, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, and Senate Republican Leader John Curran. Attendees also participated in discussions about Quantum Computing and former Members of Congress Cheri Bustos and Rodney Davis provided analysis of politics and the 2024 election.

In the evening, the IMA's gala reception featured a "who's who" of elected officials including dozens of state legislators, and many key staff members from across the state.





Left to Right:  
Mark Denzler, Illinois Manufacturers' Association, President and CEO  
House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch  
Senate President Don Harmon  
Rob Karr, Illinois Retail Merchants Association, President & CEO





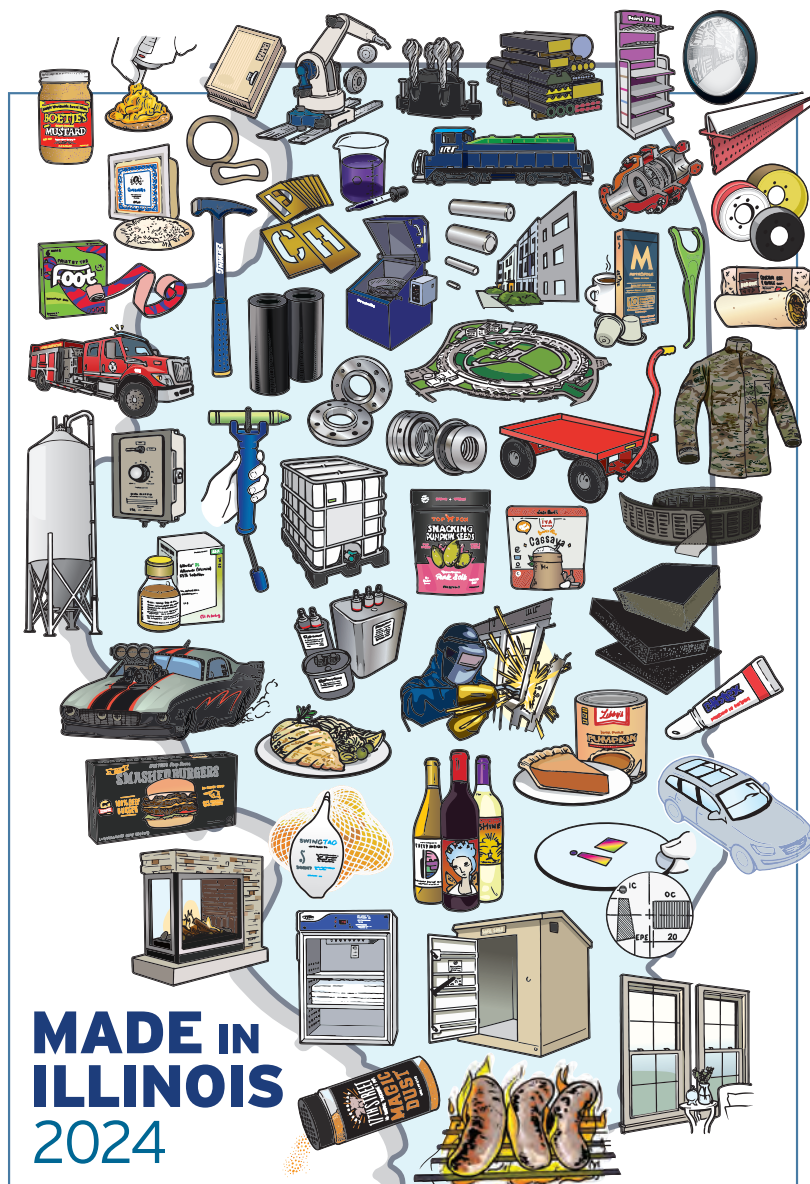
## DC FLY IN

On September 24 and 25, IMA members, directors, and staff visited Washington DC to discuss federal policies that impact our local and state economies, like inflation, job creation, tax reform, regulatory relief, energy, health care, infrastructure investment, trade, and immigration. The IMA delegation had a White House tour and briefing on trade and national manufacturing policies, visited the Canadian Embassy to discuss bilateral trade and workforce development issues with the Ambassador's staff, and discussed the 2024 election with former Congressman and US Chamber of Commerce Vice President Rodney Davis. The IMA delegation also met with Illinois elected officials including U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and Representatives Brad Schneider, Darin LaHood, Bill Foster, Mike Bost, Eric Sorensen, Nikki Budzinski, and Mike Quigley. Later, they enjoyed an afternoon reception on the Speaker's Ceremonial Balcony, followed by an evening dinner at Honeywell.

IMA DELEGATION IN  
WASHINGTON DC AFTER MEETING  
WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS.







## MADE IN ILLINOIS

Sponsored by Nicor Gas, and in partnership with IMEC, the IMA presented our fifth annual “Made in Illinois” campaign, a fun promotion showcasing great manufacturers making things right here at home, featuring nearly 60 diverse and interesting products from across our entire state.



## MPAC GOLF OUTING



An important element of the IMA is our political arm, the Manufacturers Political Action Committee (MPAC). MPAC is a tool where manufacturers collectively pool their resources to help support legislators and candidates from both political parties that support manufacturers. MPAC has played an important role in ensuring that issues important to industry are discussed, debated, and highlighted during campaigns, and has helped elect business-friendly state legislators from both sides of the political spectrum.

In an effort to raise funds for MPAC, the IMA continues to hold our Annual MPAC Golf Outing in the Chicago suburbs. In our best year yet, over 110 golfers and 40 sponsors spent a day on the golf course and raised a record amount of funds during a crucial election year.









# GROWTH



#IMA2024AM

#2

ILLINOIS  
MAKERS BOX





## MEMBERSHIP

The IMA remains committed to our mission of **BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD** and continues to repeatedly demonstrate the value of timely, accurate information and persistent advocacy on behalf of manufacturing and business in Illinois.

Our Association's strength is perhaps best reflected in our fifth straight year of record membership metrics. The IMA's membership continues to grow, adding more than 100 new member companies in 2024 alone after similar growth in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

And while the industry average for member retention hovers around 88 percent, our rate consistently exceeds 95 percent annually. This success reflects the comprehensive team effort by IMA staff to offer concierge-level service, outstanding programming, leading workforce development initiatives, critical affinity relationships, and world-class advocacy to our members.

Membership is a team effort, and we need your help to continue growing. If you have a relationship with an Illinois manufacturing company that is not an IMA member, please consider introducing them to our team. Adding your network of suppliers, customers, and peers is an opportunity for those companies to utilize our selection of services, and for our Association to continue to grow stronger.





WATER

SOIL

SPECIAL  
ASSESSMENT

Permitting • SWP Plans • Sampling  
Training • Design • SWP Plans  
SWP Implementation • Pilot

Yusuf Kabe  
Water Corps



## MAKERS MADNESS

In 2024, the IMA conducted our fifth annual Makers Madness contest, presented by Comcast Business, where Illinoisans cast online ballots to determine “The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois.” After more than 200 unique products were nominated, and more than 315,000 votes were cast, the Komatsu mining truck was awarded the title of The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois by Gov. JB Pritzker during a ceremony at the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield. Manufactured by Komatsu, a leading maker of construction, mining, forestry, and industrial heavy equipment in Peoria, the truck is a rugged, large-capacity vehicle used for construction and mining. With a capacity ranging from 30 to 400 tons, the Komatsu truck is built to meet productivity targets, and it comes equipped with new innovations in suspension, transmission, electric drive technology, and autonomous operation. It is engineered for reliability, operator efficiency, high performance, fuel efficiency, and has a reduced carbon footprint, meeting U.S. EPA Tier 4 emission standards.

Other finalists for the title included the Mullen’s Imitation French Dressing, a delicious food dressing made by Mullen’s in Palestine; the MQ-25 Stingray (Drone Refueler), an unmanned aircraft with aerial refueling capabilities built by Boeing in Mascoutah; and Mod Box by Enviro Buildings, a strong, insulated outdoor building with standardized panel sizes manufactured by Craig Industries in Quincy.









## ETIP

Illinois manufacturers took advantage of the Employee Training Investment Program (ETIP) grant. The IMA administers this program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to help Illinois manufacturers provide their workers with the skills necessary to be safe and productive and to grow their own capabilities. In 2024, more than 175 companies participated, and over 25,000 employees were trained.



GABY GARZA, MARIA MORAN, AND  
DONOVAN GRIFFITH DELIVER ETIP  
CHECKS TO IMA MEMBERS



## PARTNERSHIP WITH IMEC

Following the global pandemic, during which American and Illinois manufacturers led the nation through an economic and health crisis, the IMA and Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) announced a historic strategic partnership in 2022. This partnership aims to strengthen Illinois' rich manufacturing legacy and position the industry for future growth.

The strategic partnership has created an opportunity for the two organizations to work collaboratively and purposefully in the areas of leadership, productivity, customer engagement, operations, cybersecurity, automation, supply chain, and workforce development. In 2024, IMEC and IMA partnered on dozens of programs, including the Makers on the Move bus tour to showcase manufacturing career pathways to the next generation of Illinoisans, our annual Made in Illinois artwork, and a ground-breaking supply chain portal for Illinois manufacturers, led by IMEC.

More broadly, the partnership has provided opportunities for IMA members to access IMEC expertise, and for IMEC clients to access IMA's array of services. Created in 1997, IMEC is dedicated to helping small and medium-sized manufacturers in Illinois to be more globally competitive by consulting with them and providing comprehensive and objective technical assistance, assessment tools, and resources for Leadership, Strategy, Customer Engagement, Operations, and Workforce. IMEC serves as the state's U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center. The MEP National Network is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive, proven solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing. [www.imec.org](http://www.imec.org)







## IMA EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The Illinois Manufacturers' Association Education Foundation (IMA EF) remains the premier influencer of education programs to attract and develop Illinois' future manufacturing workforce. The IMA EF provides financial support to education institutions across Illinois and works with IMA member companies to reduce their regional workforce barriers. Through this individual support, manufacturers have made significant headway in establishing sound manufacturing talent pipelines.

## MAKE IT IN ILLINOIS JOBS CAMPAIGN

The IMA EF's successful work with IMA member companies provided the foundation for Illinois' "Make it in Illinois" manufacturing job campaign. The campaign hosted two kickoff events, one in Chicago and one in Marion, and featured IMA members and partners to showcase modern manufacturing and recruit future generations of manufacturing employees to the high-tech, sustainable, and diverse industry that manufacturing is today.









## SCHOLARSHIPS

The IMA EF was entrusted by the families of two leading women in Illinois manufacturing to administer scholarships on their behalf. The Lynne Mohr scholarship, now in its third year, was established in honor of former IMA Board Member Lynne Mohr who passed away in August of 2020. This scholarship is made available to Illinois residents enrolled in skill trade courses at any Illinois institution of higher education. Tens of thousands of dollars have been raised by the Mohr family, led by Lynne's cousin George Mauer, who embarks on an international bike ride every summer to raise funds for the endowment.

Janice Christensen was the first female Board Chair of the IMA Board of Directors and passed away late last year. Her family is providing funds for two scholarship opportunities in her honor to help Illinois women enrolled in an Illinois institution of higher learning work towards degrees in both STEM and business. This inaugural award will be presented to two females who are studying to continue to increase female representation in manufacturing and business.

## STAMP GRANT

In 2024, the IMA EF continued its work by administering the Scaling Transformative Advanced Manufacturing Pathways (STAMP) grant from DCEO. In partnership with the Education System Center of Northern Illinois University, the STAMP grant provides funds to nine designated regions across the State to scale up regional manufacturing programming. Funding for the STAMP grant was used in each region to increase high school student enrollment in manufacturing pathways and allowed students to graduate from high school with an endorsement in manufacturing ready to jump-start their careers. The IMA EF was awarded a 2-year renewal by DCEO in 2024 to continue working with regions to support their manufacturing talent pipelines.

## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

The IMA Education Foundation hosted the 3rd Annual Education & Workforce Summit in early June at Elgin Community College. Once again, over 100 attendees participated in the half-day summit that featured a keynote from Deloitte who spoke on the trends of the future of the manufacturing workforce. Panel presentations featured the “Make it in Illinois” campaign, child-care needs, leveraging employer resources for supporting local workforce needs, and a showcase of local resources from workforce partners across the state. The event concluded with a networking lunch to share ideas and collaborate on workforce strategies as a takeaway from the summit.







## MAKERS ON THE MOVE

The IMA, in partnership with IMEC, completed the 3rd Annual Makers on the Move Bus Tour in early October, also known as Manufacturing Month! This year's route doubled the number of stops from previous years and the bus visited over 40 manufacturers, community colleges, and community partners across Illinois. The kickoff was hosted by IMA member Ace Sign Company and unveiled this year's wrap which was designed by an Illinois high school student. Ace Sign Company provided the bus wrap and a welcoming space for the kickoff event as the bus departed for the over 2,000-mile trek across Illinois.

The Makers on the Move bus travels across the state every Manufacturing Month to bring awareness to Illinois' manufacturing industry and to highlight manufacturing careers. This year's route incorporated the southern Illinois kickoff of the "Make It In Illinois" campaign and was hosted by IMA member Com-Pac. The 2024 Makers on the Move tour was made possible by our partners at IMEC, CSL Behring, Ferrera, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Union Pacific, Argonne National Laboratory, Roland Berger, Wiegel, Levi, Ray & Shoup, and Ace Sign Company.







## ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING SUCCESS

Illinois manufacturers employ 650,000 workers directly and contribute the single largest share of the state's economy. Building on this strong manufacturing foundation, the IMA worked with the Governor and General Assembly to enact and refine pro-business policies and regulations to supplement many current Illinois advantages that include a best-in-class workforce, central location, access to water and low-cost energy, global airport and excellent infrastructure.

Site Selection Magazine ranked Illinois second in the nation with 552 business expansion or relocation projects while Chicagoland was named the top metro area. The IMA was appointed to the Board of Directors of Intersect Illinois, the state's leading business attraction organization, to help focus on economic growth.

The IMA joined Governor JB Pritzker for the announcement of the new Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park that will be located on the site of the old U.S. Steel plant on the south side of Chicago. Quantum is a game-changing technology and this new Park featuring a cryogenics facility will be anchored by PsiQuantum and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) along with the University of Illinois. More than one billion dollars in public and private funding has already been committed to building the first U.S.-based, utility-scale, fault-tolerant quantum computer that will drive innovation in life sciences, cybersecurity, clean energy, and more.



RENDERING OF THE ILLINOIS QUANTUM  
AND MICROELECTRONICS PARK







## ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING SUCCESS

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (U.S. EDA) also designated the Chicago metro area as a Bloch Quantum Tech Hub that will be a central drive in American leadership in quantum technology. Investors in the area include IMA members Google and IBM.

In July, the U.S. EDA awarded \$52 million to the Illinois Fermentation and Agriculture Biomanufacturing (iFAB) Tech Hub located in east-central Illinois. This project will leverage Illinois' leading production of raw agricultural materials to develop sustainable alternatives. The IMA was part of a consortium of thirty-three partners for this tech hub that included IMA members ADM and Primient along with the University of Illinois. This initiative will unite cutting-edge R&D, scalable infrastructure, and abundant feedstock production positioning central Illinois as a pre-eminent destination for biomanufacturing that is expected to grow by \$200 billion by 2040.



## ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING SUCCESS

The IMA collaborated with dozens of companies across Illinois that located new projects or expanded their facilities including Ferrero's brand-new and first American chocolate factory in Bloomington, Manner Polymers' new facility in Mt. Vernon, S & C Electric's new manufacturing plant in Palatine, Rivian's electric vehicle expansion in Normal, Vetter Pharma's expansion in Des Plaines, Kraft Heinz distribution center in DeKalb, Prysmian Group expansion in DuQuoin, and T/CCI Manufacturing's new compressor facility and first-in-the-nation public climatic testing facility that is available for public use in Decatur.

On the policy front, the IMA's "Make it in Illinois" manufacturing jobs campaign was officially launched during the Makers on the Move bus tour, and two new manufacturing academies – IMA legislative initiatives – welcome their first class of students in the metro-east and McLean County.

The IMA successfully championed an extension of the Research & Development tax credit along with changes to the REV-EDGE and MICRO Act to further incent manufacturing growth in Illinois.

FERRERO HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING  
CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE ITS FIRST  
CHOCOLATE PROCESSING FACILITY IN  
NORTH AMERICA







## INDUSTRY DAYS

The IMA hosted four separate “industry days” in 2024 designed to showcase specific sectors within the manufacturing economy while building and strengthening local supply chains. These events were held in conjunction with key partners including the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, Intersect Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and local partners. Nearly 400 manufacturers ranging from large OEMs to small suppliers participated in each event that include keynote address, moderated panel discussion, and supplier matchmaking.

Events in 2024 included the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Conference (February), Electric Vehicles and Batteries (June), Defense and Stamping/Forging (August) and Aerospace (October). Programs on Food and Sustainable Fuels are already planned for 2025.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, efforts continued to focus on building consistent, active engagement by providing valuable timely content across our email communications and social media platforms. IMA Communications also executed a growing number of special projects that provided additional opportunities to increase engagement and brand awareness by showcasing Illinois' incredible manufacturing sector, companies, and workforce.



### IMA EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

More than 950 unique email communications  
Almost three million total individual emails delivered  
Open rates and click-through rates more than double the industry average



### FACEBOOK

Grew to 3100+ followers with 176 percent increase in reach  
More than 1,000 total unique posts



### TWITTER

Grew to 2400+ followers  
More than 2,000 unique posts and 240,000 impressions.



### LINKEDIN

Grew to more than 10,500 followers  
Almost 1,000 total unique posts and 750,000 impressions



## MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS:

- Response to Gov. JB Pritzker's Annual Budget
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel Conference
- Carbon Capture & Sequestration
- Regular WLS-AM Appearances by Mark Denzler
- Workforce Development (IMA Ed Foundation Legislative Agenda, Workforce Solutions Summit)
- Makers Madness 2024
- 2024 Business Day
- Manufacturing Hall of Fame & Excellence Awards
- EV & Battery, Defense, Stamping & Forging, and Aerospace industry day events
- Manufacturing Month: Makers on the Move Bus Tour 2024
- New Board Member Announcements
- International Trade Missions with Gov. JB Pritzker
- DC Fly-In
- Manufacturer of the Year
- IMA Annual Luncheon
- Webinars, events, and other programming





# INNOVATION







## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The IMA's Annual Luncheon celebrated the IMA's 131st Anniversary at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago on December 6 with more than 700 business leaders from across Illinois. Attendees participated in virtual breakout sessions leading up to the event, covering the 2024 election, economic and market conditions, and workforce challenges and solutions. Our Luncheon guests learned about the incredible work being done by Illinois manufacturers from President and CEO Mark Denzler and an inspiring message from IMA Board of Directors Chair Renee Togher of Azteca Foods. The keynote remarks were delivered by Stratton Slavos, Chief Business Officer of PsiQuantum, the anchor of the newly announced Quantum and Microelectronics Park in south Chicago.

The 2024 Barry L. MacLean Manufacturer of the Year was awarded to The Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) of Decatur. The Janice M. Christensen Award was given to Marsha Serlin of United Scrap Metal, Inc. Legacy awards were given to companies celebrating milestone anniversaries of service to our Association, and both company and individual champions were recognized in this year's Manufacturing Miles competition.









## ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING HALL OF FAME AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) held its inaugural Illinois Manufacturing Hall of Fame Induction and Manufacturing Excellence Awards in June. This special event, held in Lombard, brought together nearly 300 business leaders to celebrate the achievements of individuals and organizations that exemplify the spirit and impact of Illinois manufacturing.

The Illinois Manufacturing Hall of Fame welcomed its first inductees, recognizing extraordinary contributions and long-lasting impact on the industry. Alongside this prestigious honor, we celebrated the 2024 Manufacturing Excellence Award winners, chosen from almost 150 nominations across eight distinct categories.







## PROGRAMMING

Programming at the IMA continues to grow and engage members, offering education and peer networking both virtually and in-person. Topics are carefully selected to be relevant to many different job titles & employees at our member companies. As new laws are announced, the IMA is prepared to quickly offer timely information and guidance to assist members during urgent transition times.

60 total programs offered in 2024  
1,389 in-person attendees  
4,468 virtual attendees

## SAFETY CONFERENCE

We held the first Annual Safety Conference in 2024, bringing together the latest in OSHA safety regulations, preparing for an onsite inspection, and developing a culture of safety to keep all employees safe, this year in Palatine. Watch for exciting new developments in our safety programming next year as we continue to grow this focus!

## ENERGY MANAGERS' GROUP

In partnership with Constellation Energy, the IMA's exclusive energy partner, the Energy Managers Group was created in 2023 to facilitate access to expertise on sustainability and energy commodity issues. Meeting quarterly, this small group reviewed dedicated topics, built a peer network at other Illinois manufacturers, and shared ideas for better preparation in a time of uncertainty and transition. Participants discussed sustainability solutions, pricing, contract transparency, and buying strategies, and learned best practices directly from peers and the experts at Constellation. The group will continue meeting and growing into 2025 and beyond.

## HR FORUM

HR trainings are held monthly on topics such as Compensation Trends & Benchmarking, Updating Your Employee Handbooks, New Laws, Conducting an Internal Investigation, and anti-Harassment training. The HR Forum offers a safe discussion format for HR professionals to ask their specific questions, share their best practices, and develop a strong support network in a moderated setting. The IMA offers both SHRM and HRCI Continuing Ed Credit – adding more value for our HR professionals.

## EXECUTIVE FORUM

A small and exclusive forum of CEOs and executive leadership meet quarterly to discuss top of mind issues and share solutions. The group explored hot topics such as labor shortages, AI, and shared ideas about what is working in their business.

## ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

We continued to offer our Anti-Sexual Harassment Training, which included both a live training session that we hosted and an updated recording for IMA members. As required by the State of Illinois, this training is available for use on-site and for new employees, providing tremendous value for our members.

## REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES

Our Regional Roundtables brought our members together to discuss manufacturing automation and workforce housing in Bellevue, Quincy, Normal, and Bloomington.







ATTENDEES BONDING DURING BREAKOUT GROUPS AT  
THE WOMEN MAKERS SERIES KICK OFF IN APRIL

## FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

We continued special interest programs for those in the manufacturing finance and technology space. Resources included the bi-monthly Happy Hour, Illinois' Five-Year Economic Plan, Key Findings in Manufacturing, using Teams & scheduling, and Tax Law Changes in 2024.

## MONTHLY LUNCH BREAK

Webinars covered a wide range of topics, such as training a new employee, supply chain & transportation, cybersecurity, exporting, diverse supplier resources, ERP, preparing & responding to an emergency, the future of Gas, and more.

## WOMEN MAKERS SERIES

IMA Chairwoman Renee Togher, President of Azteca Foods, charged the IMA with reinvigorating the Women Makers group. The new series, The Power of Being a Woman Maker, hosted four events across the state and brought over 200 women together. Each event was hosted by powerful women leaders and featured panel discussions that spoke to what it is like being a women leader, sharing personal experiences, and inspiring the next generation of women leaders. The kickoff of the series was hosted in April and included Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton and Illinois Comptroller Suzana Mendoza who addressed the crowd with inspiring words of wisdom and leadership. The final event for this year will take place in December of 2024 with a happy hour to celebrate this year's series.







*"I appreciated the practical tips and relevant information provided for my business."*

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY CONFERENCE

The 4th Annual Environment & Energy Conference has grown into the premier event for our members in the environment, energy, and sustainability space! Held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, this year's attendance doubled from the previous year and sold out in the days leading to the event. The highlights of the event include an opening keynote by Illinois EPA Acting Director, James Jennings, a conversation on the future of natural gas from Doug Scott, Chairman of the Illinois Commerce, a breakdown in air permitting with Illinois EPA Bureau of Air Chief, Julie Armitage, and informative panels focused on Energy Supply and Demand, the Future of Gas and Sustainability in Manufacturing. It was a full and productive day. This event will return even bigger and better on October 21, 2025, so mark your calendar now!

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

The 2024 IMA Public Affairs Conference was a huge success this year with 100 attendees gathering in Oak Brook, Illinois, to listen to acclaimed election analyst and NBC contributor, David Wasserman, as he broke down the races for President, Congress, and the U.S. Senate. This event, which the IMA hosts during election years, gives IMA members with an interest in the state and national political scene, a unique perspective on political races that shape our government, that in turn lead to regulatory issues that impact manufacturers across the country. The IMA also provided an update on political races in the Illinois General Assembly and perfectly predicted that little change was coming to Illinois' political landscape in 2024.

## AFFINITY PROGRAMS/PARTNERSHIPS

The IMA continues to work with close partners to provide unparalleled benefits to our members. Some key affinity partners in 2024 included:

**Constellation Energy:** The IMA's exclusive energy partner for more than 20 years, Constellation provides IMA members with innovative and practical sustainability solutions and intelligent energy management solutions to stabilize their energy budgets, reduce energy costs, improve facility operations, and advance sustainability goals.

**Crystal Clean:** Heritage-Crystal Clean is the IMA's preferred provider of parts cleaning and industrial waste services.

**Aramark:** Aramark Uniform Services is proud to be the preferred supplier partner of IMA and its members.





# THANK YOU PARTNERS

3M  
Abbott  
AbbVie  
Advantage Industrial Systems, LLC  
All About Personnel  
Ameren Illinois  
American Airlines  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
Americanstruction  
Archer Daniels Midland Company  
AT&T  
Aurora Metals Division LLC  
Azteca Foods, Inc.  
Bank of America  
BCBS  
BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois  
BluSky  
BNSF Railway  
bp America, Inc.  
C. Cretors and Company  
Calumet Area Industrial Commission  
Canadian National Railway Company  
Carus Corporation  
Caterpillar  
Cedar Concepts Corporation  
CITGO Petroleum Corporation  
Clayco  
CNA  
Comcast  
ComEd  
Commerce Bank  
Constellation  
Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres

Crystal Clean  
CSL Behring  
Cullerton Group  
Custom Aluminum Products Inc.  
Deere & Company  
Diageo North America  
ECOS  
Eli Lilly  
Enercon Engineering Inc  
epicor  
ExxonMobil  
Falex Corporation  
Ferrara Candy Company  
Ford Motor Company  
Franklin Display Group  
Freedman Seating Company  
FTI Consulting  
GAM Enterprises  
General Mills  
Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation  
Governors State University  
Growth Dimensions EDC  
Guardian West a division of Flex-N-Gate  
HeplerBroom LLC  
ICATT  
IEPA  
Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (formerly  
Chicago Area Clean Cities)  
Illinois American Water  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Energy Association  
Illinois Renewable Fuels Association  
Illinois Retail Merchants Association  
Illinois Soybean Association

# THANK YOU PARTNERS

Illinois Trucking Association

IMEC

Insperity

International Paper

Intersect Illinois

Invenery

JPMorgan Chase

Knight Hawk Holdings, LLC

LIBERTY Steel

M&M Quality Grinding

Mac Strategies Group, Inc.

Marquis Energy - Illinois LLC

McLean-Fogg

Michael R. Murphy & Associates

Miller Canfield

Molson Coors Beverage Company

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Morton Industries

Motive Power Resources, Inc.

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NRG Energy Inc.

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Peoples Gas

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Principal Manufacturing Corp.

Reserve Management Group

Richland Community College

RJ Reynolds

Rock Valley College

RSM US LLP

RuckusAndromeda

SCS Engineers

Semblex

Serafin & Associates, Inc.

ServPro

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Smith and Richardson Inc.

StandFast Group

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SWD, Inc.

TCCI Manufacturing

Teklab, Inc.

Termax

The Boeing Company

The Libman Company

Trim-Tex Inc.

Uber Technologies Inc.

Union Pacific Railroad

United Airlines

United Scrap Metal

United Scrap Metal, Inc.

University of Illinois

University of Illinois - Institute for Sustainability,  
Energy, and Environment (iSEE)

USACH - Hardinge

USEPA

Vistra Corp

Warwick Carbon Solutions

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Zurich



# THE IMAT TEAM



**Mark Denzler**  
President & CEO



**Philip McCall**  
CFO & VP of Finance



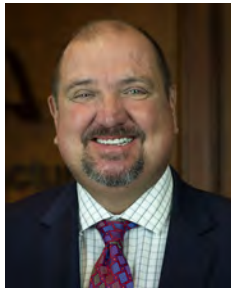
**Gordy Hulten**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Sarah Hartwick**  
Vice President Education  
& Workforce Policy



**Donovan Griffith**  
Vice President of  
Government Affairs



**Randy Prince**  
Senior Business  
Development Manager



**Maria Moran**  
Business Development  
Manager



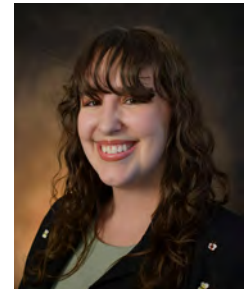
**Terri Graham**  
Program Director



**Trish Overturf**  
Director of  
Special Events



**Gaby Garza**  
Director of  
Government Affairs



**Sydney Jarrard**  
Editor & Manager  
of Publications



**Krista Lisser**  
Director of Content  
Production



**Christine Sisk**  
Executive Assistant



**Jannette Allotey**  
Director of Finance  
& Administration



**Cheyanne Geller**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Megan Loberg-  
Simmering**  
Grant Administrator

“Being a member of the IMA has provided us with unparalleled advocacy, ensuring our voice is heard on critical issues that impact the manufacturing sector. Their network and resources have connected us with industry leaders and valuable insights that drive our business forward. From training initiatives to legislative updates, the IMA provides us with tools and knowledge to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market.”

**-RENEE TOGHER**  
**PRESIDENT OF AZTECA FOODS**

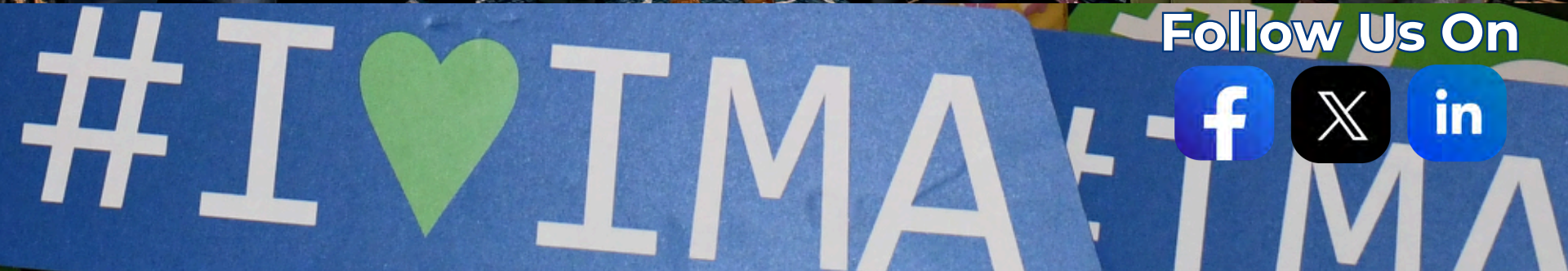
“The Will Group is intentional about job creation and economic development. As an anchor of employment and neighborhood improvement, our warehouse and assembly team procure material from four (4) different continents in the State of Illinois, and without partners like the IMA, we would not be where we are today.”

**-JESSICA ASHLEY GARMON**  
**COO & CHIEF GENERAL COUNSEL, THE WILL GROUP**





BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD



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