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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AI, Skills and Future of Manufacturing Take Center Stage at Eighth Annual Workforce Summit

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) will host the eighth annual Ohio Manufacturers' Workforce Summit on Thurs., Nov. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hilton Downtown Columbus, 402 N. High St.

This year's summit will bring together manufacturers, workforce leaders, educators and policymakers to explore solutions to Ohio's top workforce challenges — including how artificial intelligence is reshaping manufacturing, and how industry-led strategies are driving talent development.

"This summit comes at a crucial time as Ohio's manufacturing sector faces the rapidly evolving challenges of AI adoption and workforce development," said OMA President Ryan Augsburger. "We're not just solving today's problems — we're building a future-ready workforce that will ensure Ohio remains a national leader in advanced manufacturing for decades to come."

The event will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m., followed by a 9:30 a.m. welcome and a morning keynote address at 9:45 a.m. titled "Building AI Agility – Competing and Thriving in the New Economy." Presented by Todd McLees of Humanskills.ai, the keynote will focus on how manufacturers can leverage AI to improve decision-making, cut waste and accelerate growth.

Breakout sessions at 10:45 a.m. will feature the following topics:

- **Sparking Interest:** Guiding students toward manufacturing careers (speakers from Honda, Battelle Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network)
- **Overcoming Barriers:** Supporting employee growth and retention through career pathways and coaching
- **Seamless Growth:** Advancing technician careers with Ohio's Competency Model and earn-and-learn programs
- **Amplifying Outreach:** Using marketing and data to attract new manufacturing talent

Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel will speak at 1:30 p.m., followed by a JobsOhio market research briefing at 2:15 p.m., highlighting insights into Ohio's technician workforce and talent pipeline.

The day will conclude with a 2:35 p.m. panel featuring Ohio manufacturers discussing a bold, statewide earn-and-learn strategy to solve "the technician shortage." Panelists include representatives from L-H Battery Company, Inc., GMI Companies and Worthington Steel.

The event will close at 3:15 p.m., with a reception to follow at 3:30 p.m.

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association comprised solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$133 billion annually to the economy.

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