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Office of Economic Development

City of San José Celebrates Manufacturing Week

San José, Calif. – Santa Clara County ranks 10th in specialized industries jobs nationwide and more than half of global electronic manufacturing service providers have significant operations in San José. In addition, one in eight jobs is tied to manufacturing in the San José metro region. Yet even with the availability of steady employment, the local industry struggles to appeal to recent graduates and professionals. Silicon Valley Manufacturing Week was established to introduce students and professionals to careers in manufacturing.

“San José's manufacturing sector is sophisticated, fast, and efficient. With strength in R&D, and access to a highly skilled workforce and technology, manufacturers play a vital role in Silicon Valley's innovation economy,” said Kim Walesh, San José's Director of Economic Development

This year, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Week takes place from September 28 to October 2, 2015. In conjunction with Mayor Liccardo's "Built In San José" initiative on manufacturing, the Office of Economic Development is collaborating with local leaders to raise awareness and inspire youth to train for careers in this field.

"The talent pool in San José is ideally suited for both the development and manufacture of core products," said James Palazzolo, President of ZOLL Medical Corporation, a manufacturer of medical devices and related software solutions.

During the week, local manufacturers, including Grainger, Jabil Circuit, and Vander-Bend Manufacturing, will host events, discussions and facility tours. In addition, SPUR will sponsor a talk about industrial and manufacturing uses. On Thursday and Friday, Jabil, will host students from Westmont High School at their Great Oaks and Blue Sky facilities for tours and an interactive panel of engineers, technicians, and talented staff giving students an overview of career paths in the field.

Silicon Valley Manufacturing Week comes on the heels of Mayor Sam Liccardo recently launching the "Built in San José" manufacturing initiative to preserve and strengthen manufacturing activity, broaden prosperity, and create a pathway to middle income jobs in the City.

"San José still has a more manufacturing-intensive economy than nearly any other major American city. Manufacturers – like Bestronics, Jabil and Vander-Bend – increasingly want to locate and grow in San José to be near design, research and engineering activities. I am committed to collaborating with our partners to create a competitive environment where they will flourish and generate more tech manufacturing jobs," said Mayor Sam Liccardo.

Under the Mayor's initiative, the City will provide incentives to strengthen its manufacturing industry, including: providing permit fee waivers for manufacturing building retrofits, a 60-day permit approval process for expanding and relocating manufacturing companies, a 1% building and structures tax for new construction and tenant improvements for manufacturers, and preserving scarce industrial lands to promote growth of the manufacturing sector.

In support of the Mayor's Manufacturing Initiative, the Office of Economic Development's work2future program recently secured over \$1.2 million in federal and state funding. work2future, which serves over 4,000 adults and youth annually and was designated by the State of California as a High Performing Workforce Investment Board, will fund employer-driven training and internships to support 150 clients to secure jobs with clear career paths. Key industry and community partnerships to date in this effort include Bentek, Jabil, Zazzle, San José-Evergreen Community College, Foothill-DeAnza Community College and San José State University.

Silicon Valley Manufacturing Week events are coordinated by San José's Office of Economic Development. For more information and a listing of local events and activities, visit <http://www.sjeconomy.com/events/>.

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