



RICH HOBBS
CEO Corner



Federal Shifts Won't Change Our Mission



In a time of shifting federal priorities, MRC remains steadfast in its mission to support and elevate our manufacturing community. In his latest message, President & CEO Rich Hobbs addresses recent funding changes and reaffirms our dedication to industry leadership, innovation, training and certifications. Discover how MRC plans to navigate these changes and continue delivering value to our partners. Read the full message: [Read More](#)

**Latest Advancements at MRC
Spotlight on Continuous Improvement**

Insights from East Penn Manufacturing CI Tour



Our Continuous Improvement Forum recently brought together industry professionals for an engaging session at East Penn Manufacturing. Attendees experienced Lean and Six Sigma principles in action, participated in a Gemba walk, and exchanged best practices with peers.

The event provided valuable insights into real-world applications of continuous improvement strategies. Stay tuned for another CI Forum & Plant Tour later this spring at MI Windows and Doors! Explore the full East Penn event recap and photos on [LinkedIn](#).



Lean Culture Immersion Experiences Webinar
Kentucky and Japan Tours

Lean Culture Immersion: Kentucky (Sept 2025)



Exclusive Toyota Tour in Fukuoka (March 2026)



In case you missed the insightful webinar featuring Mike and Ben Hoseus and Gene Kaschak as they delved into the details of MRC’s upcoming Lean Culture Immersion programs: the Kentucky tour in September 2025 and the Japan experience in March 2026, you can catch up on the details here.

These immersive journeys offer participants a unique opportunity to engage directly with Lean practices at their source, including exclusive access to Toyota’s Production System and firsthand exposure to Kaizen methodologies in action.

The webinar covers agendas, travel logistics, costs, funding opportunities, and strategies to communicate the return on investment to leadership.. Discover how these experiences can transform your organization's culture and approach to continuous improvement. Visit [MRC Events](#) for details and registration or watch the webinar recording. [View Zoom Recording](#)

Inspiring the Next Generation:
What's So Cool About Manufacturing Awards



Celebrating the Future of Manufacturing

The 2025 What’s So Cool About Manufacturing® contests in the Lehigh Valley and Berks-Schuylkill regions have once again showcased the creativity and enthusiasm of our middle school students. Through engaging videos, these young minds have highlighted the dynamic world of manufacturing and its exciting career opportunities.

While we can't feature all the incredible content here, we invite you to explore the full array of award-winning videos, meet the talented student teams advancing to the statewide Best of PA competition on May 14th in Harrisburg, and get to know the inspiring members of our Lehigh Valley, Berks-Schuylkill, and Carbon county Dream Teams. These young professionals are making a significant impact by bringing the world of manufacturing into classrooms and sparking interest in future careers.

Explore More:

- [Lehigh Valley Contest Highlights](#)
- [Berks & Schuylkill Contest Highlights](#)
- [Best of PA Statewide Contest Details](#)
- [Meet the Lehigh Valley Dream Team](#)
- [Meet the Berks-Schuylkill Dream Team](#)
- [Meet the Carbon County Dream Team](#)

Welcome Baby Skylar!

We are overjoyed to announce the arrival of **Skylar Dorothy Morris**, born on March 26, 2025, weighing in at 8 lbs. 11 oz. Skylar is already captivating hearts with her bright eyes and joyful presence. Skylar's Mom and Dad are Amber & Jacob Morris. Amber is MRC's dedicated Workforce Initiative Specialist who plays a pivotal role in producing the What's So Cool inspiring events. Join us in celebrating this wonderful addition to the MRC family by enjoying Skylar's delightful photo



LAST CALL! | A FEW SEATS LEFT!
Automation & Manufacturing Technology Show
April 24, 2025

Message from Shawn Furman
Director, Automation and Manufacturing Technology at MRC



"Each year, our technology show evolves to showcase the newest innovations reshaping the manufacturing industry," This year, our focus on Smart Manufacturing will give attendees actionable insights and real-world examples of how advanced technology can transform their operations."

"With limited space available, manufacturers are encouraged to bring their teams and register early to experience the latest advancements in technology and the "smart" way of manufacturing to enhance agility and responsiveness in production."

Discover how these programs can reduce costs, boost productivity, and enhance competitiveness for manufacturers. Learn more about the available resources and how to get started today. There are 29 Exhibitors this year! We've mapped everything out for you. [Download](#) the Exhibitor Floor Plan with descriptions and the agenda. While there is still time, [Register](#) Now!

Featured Success Story
American Polarizers, Inc.



Based in Reading, Pennsylvania, American Polarizers, Inc. (API) is a global leader in the manufacture of polarizers and optical filters. The company offers a wide range of linear polarizers, circular polarizing films and filters, and waveplates and retarders, as well as custom optical- and pre-cut filters.

American Polarizers Pursues Education and Automation
with MRC's Assistance

The ongoing relationship with MRC has saved API well over \$100,000!

"MRC has been a critical part of our Continuous Improvement journey."

For the full story, [Read More](#)

2024-2025 Forums Updates

CEO Forum - Tariffs, Economic Policy Shifts, and Investment Strategies



CEO Forum Recap - At a recent CEO Forum, John Stoltzfus, Managing Director and Chief Investment Strategist at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., shared his insights on current tariff policies. He discussed how these measures aim to address longstanding trade imbalances that have contributed to the offshoring of manufacturing. While acknowledging the short-term uncertainties these policies may introduce, Stoltzfus emphasized their potential to strengthen the U.S. economy and promote fairer global trade practices.

Despite recent market volatility, he remains optimistic about market performance in 2025, recommending strategic investments in the technology, communications, and industrial sectors. Watch the full discussion for a detailed analysis on economic policy shifts and investment strategies during this transitional period. [View Recording](#)

MRC offers this CEO Forum for executive leaders with a strong emphasis on problem solving and best practices. The Forum is an opportunity to meet with other decision-makers in a confidential setting. To join, please contact Diane Lewis at (610) 554-5196 or email to diane.lewis@mrcpa.org....

HR Forum - Executive Orders and Workplace Impacts



HR Forum Recap: Key Updates on Executive Orders & Workplace Impacts In our recent HR Forum, we had the privilege of an in-depth briefing from Wayne Pinkstone, Labor & Employment Partner at Ogletree Deakins. He provided valuable insights into the latest Executive Orders and their implications for employers —both those with and without government contracts.

Key topics included:

- Recent Executive Orders and their broader impact on employment policies
- Navigating compliance challenges amid evolving regulations
- Updates from NLRB, EEOC, and OSHA affecting private employers
- Practical strategies for assessing risk and adapting workplace policies

With ongoing clarifications and new developments emerging almost daily, HR leaders must stay informed and proactive. Exchanging insights with peers is more important than ever. The HR Forum remains vital for HR leaders to navigate change, share strategies, and stay ahead in an evolving workplace landscape. We invite you to join the conversation! Contact Diane Lewis at (610) 554-5196 or email diane.lewis@mrcpa.org.

Safety Forum- ▪ Confined Spaces ▪ Cold Stress Awareness



Workplace Safety Forum Recap: - Last month's Workplace Safety Forum focused on two critical safety concerns for manufacturers: **Confined Spaces & Cold Stress Awareness**. Led by William T. Paletski, PE, CSP, CWCA, an industry expert with over 39 years of EHS experience, the session provided valuable insights into OSHA regulations and best practices to keep employees safe.

Confined Spaces (1910.146 & 1926 Subpart AA)— Attendees learned how to properly identify, assess, and manage confined spaces, including permit requirements, IDLH hazards, and the roles of entry teams, supervisors, and rescue personnel.

Cold Stress Awareness – The session covered OSHA's General Duty Clause, employer responsibilities, and the dangers of cold stress, such as hypothermia, frostbite, and trench foot. Participants gained knowledge about prevention strategies, training, and workplace policies to protect employees in extreme temperatures.

Stay informed. Stay compliant. Protect your workforce. Join the conversation. Contact Diane Lewis (610) 554-5196 or diane.lewis@mrcpa.org.

REMINDERS!
Educational Resources
24/7



Manufacturing Insights Blog - Your vantage point to anticipate market shifts, optimize operations, and strategize for the future. A guiding compass through business complexities providing valuable information and insights into the dynamic world of manufacturing. [View Here](#)

New Blogs!

[Embracing Change with Confidence](#)
[Blueprint for Safety: Creating Effective Emergency and OSHA Compliance Plans](#)
[Upgrading from ISO 9001 to AS9100: Six Key Considerations for Manufacturers](#)



Training and Events Schedule MRC is an industry leader in training manufacturing employees in all aspects of the business. [View Here](#)



On-demand Webinars provide manufacturers with a valuable, no-cost resource to expand their knowledge on a variety of topics that can enhance their business’ products, processes, and financials. [View Here](#)

MRC NEWS

MRC News - Stay informed with the latest updates from MRC on our NEWS page. Here, you’ll find stories celebrating the achievements of our team, our clients, and the manufacturing community, as well as press releases, new program announcements, and inspiring initiatives like “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing.” [View Here](#)

SUCCESS STORIES

Success Stories - MRC has helped hundreds of manufacturing companies throughout Pennsylvania. Read some of our client success stories and learn how MRC helps manufacturing clients just like you. [View Here](#)

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GET THE RESOURCES
YOU NEED TO THRIVE

Contact the MRC Team today for the answers to your biggest challenges.

SCHEDULE A MEETING

TRAINING EVENTS CALENDAR



Manufacturers Resource Center
7200A Windsor Drive | Allentown, PA 18106
(610) 628-4641 | www.mrcpa.org