



News Release

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Educators Enthused by Training at Manufacturer Career & Technical Education Top Valley Priority

FRESNO- On July 29, Betts Company held a training session for Central Valley educators to provide a deeper understanding of what working in a high quality manufacturing company is like. Mike Betts, CEO of Betts Company, is a member and chair of the Manufacturing Cluster of the San Joaquin Valley and is leading the Career and Technical Educational initiative in the Fresno area.

Over 20 community college and high school administrators and faculty attended the session to learn about lean manufacturing, workplace safety, and the importance of core values and culture.

“We were pleased that so many high school and community college faculty and administrators attended,” said Betts. Participants included representatives from Fresno Unified School District, Madera Unified School District, and College of the Sequoias. In addition, a variety of industry partners and employers were present.

“The purpose of this type of event is to offer opportunities for community college and high school administrators and faculty to visit manufacturing plants and learn directly from employers where there are skill gaps so that we can align programs to fill them,” said Gurminder Sangha, deputy sector navigator for Advanced Manufacturing. “We are planning many more professional development activities to strengthen the partnership between industry and education as together we build a vibrant Advanced Manufacturing Cluster,” Sangha added.

“The training was great and I applaud Betts Company for reaching out to the greater educational community in the Fresno area to actively forge a working partnership. This process will certainly benefit our students by educating them about the real world of the manufacturing sector in Fresno County,” said Rick Watson, CEO of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART). “The fact that they will be able to see it and hear it from those directly connected to the industry is and will continue to be valuable.”

The event was sponsored by the [Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy](#) initiative of California Community Colleges Chancellors Office.

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Established in February 2013, the Regional Industry Clusters Initiative (RICI) is the result of an analysis of the San Joaquin Valley's industry clusters, directed by the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, on behalf of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. Team members engage champions for the five identified clusters: Agriculture, Clean Energy, Health & Wellness, Manufacturing, and Water Technology. Visit sjvrici.org for more information.

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