

Youth Outreach

New Role, New Momentum for Youth Outreach

This month, LMMC welcomed Heidi Marshall as its first-ever Youth Outreach Specialist, a role created to turn the organization's youth engagement ambitions into sustained, on-the-ground momentum.

Heidi brings 30 years in public education to the position, including 11 as a middle school principal in the Sharpsville area. After retiring in 2024, she found her way to LMMC through a connection at United Way of Mercer County, drawn by a mission that felt personal.



Having grown up locally, she brings a fresh appreciation for the area's manufacturing roots and genuine excitement about helping students discover that a rewarding, well-paying career can start right here at home.

Her deep network across Lawrence and Mercer County schools, built over years of collaboration with Midwest Intermediate Unit 4, principals and guidance counselors, positions her to open doors that can further expand LMMC's reach.

Members are likely to encounter Heidi working with schools and other organizations committed to youth career awareness like Lawrence County School to Work, PNDC's Homegrown Initiative and advocating for work-based learning and pre-apprenticeships.

Heidi lives in Sharon and spends her free time with yoga, gardening, guitar and her poodle. Welcome, Heidi!

Subscribe to our Newsletter

If you were forwarded this email and would like to receive LMMC's newsletter directly, please send your name, company affiliation and email address to jim@houckpr.com.

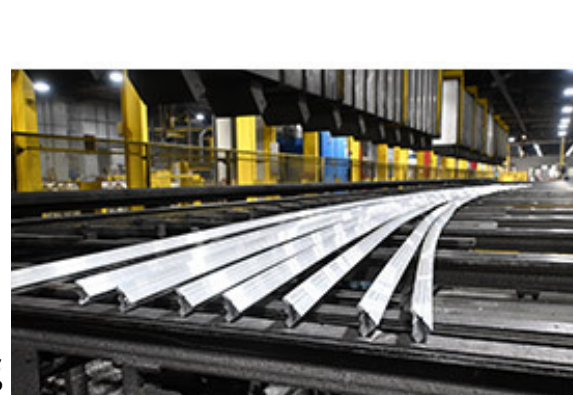
Membership



New Member Profile: nVent-ILSCO Extrusions

On a 165-acre site in Greenville that once housed the world's largest ladder manufacturer, nVent-ILSCO Extrusions produces aluminum shapes and connectors that keep the electrified world running. The company's roots on this site trace back to 1945, but the ILSCO brand itself dates to 1896 and it took ownership of the aluminum extrusion operation in 2010.

The facility operates as part of nVent, a global company focused on electrical products and solutions ranging from enclosures to liquid cooling solutions to custom mechanical connectors and grounding products, lightning and surge



protection equipment, and power distribution infrastructure.

Roughly half of the plant's output supports intercompany branded products, and the rest is consumed by a few hundred outside customers, including automotive suppliers, equipment OEM's, machine builders, and fabrication shops.

The Greenville location employs 80 people across two shifts, with entry-level positions like manufacturing and fabrication operators leading to more skilled roles in extrusion, tool & die, maintenance, quality, and often into leadership roles. Sales Account Manager, Cody Igersheim, started on the plant floor and worked his way into estimating and sales coordination after completing his degree.

John Thigpen, the site's business leader, has spent 30 years building the region's manufacturing and workforce networks and believes joining LMMC was a natural next step.

"We've been advocates for manufacturing and economic development for a long time," Thigpen said. "We were waiting to see how LMMC would position itself, and when we saw the new coursework around supervision and cross-functional development, they hit the nail on the head."

With a culture built on promoting from within, Thigpen said investing in skills training and employee engagement are a top priority, and one that LMMC is well positioned to support.

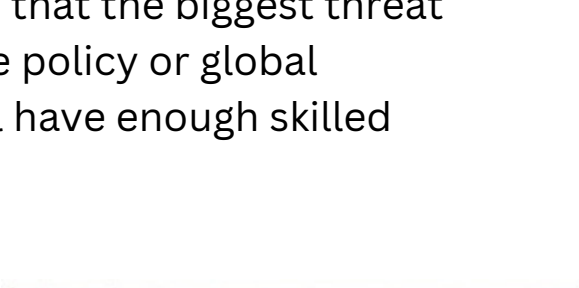
LMMC welcomes [nVent-ILSCO Extrusions](#) and looks forward to adding their voice and experience to the coalition.

Thought Leadership

A Case for Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce

In a recent Business Journal opinion piece, LMMC Board Chair Anna Barendsfeld makes a compelling case that the biggest threat to manufacturing isn't the economy, trade policy or global competition. It's whether the industry will have enough skilled people to fill the jobs of the future.

Drawing on her industry experience and role as Ellwood's Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Barendsfeld argues that manufacturing offers family-supporting careers without the debt of a four-year degree, and that too many students still picture the industry as outdated rather than as the innovative, tech-driven field it's become.



She points to programs like the Wilmington Area School District's Agriculture Program as proof of what's possible when educators, employers and communities work together.

We encourage you to give it a read.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Member Benefits

Become Our Newsletter's Presenting Sponsor

LMMC has opened up a new advertising opportunity for Associate members: "Presenting Sponsor" of our monthly newsletter.

For \$2,500 for the year, one Associate member's name, logo and website hyperlink will run prominently under the newsletter's masthead in every issue, putting your brand in front of roughly 500 executives, hiring managers, business and community leaders, educators and workforce development professionals across the regional manufacturing industry.

The newsletter's average open rate tops 60%, well above industry benchmarks, so this placement reaches an audience that actually reads and engages with the coalition's primary communications platform.

This opportunity is exclusive to LMMC Associate members in good standing and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one company can hold the Presenting Sponsor spot at a time.

Interested Associate members should contact Jim Houck for more information or to confirm availability and lock in their spot.

Membership

Welcome New Associate Member: Equiliem

LMMC welcomes Equiliem as its newest Associate Member. Founded in 1995, Equiliem supports critical industries across North America, including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, government and energy, with recruiting and workforce management solutions.

Their services span contract and direct hire recruiting, employer of record, payrolling, independent contractor compliance and managed services.



Representing Equiliem locally is Ryan Corbin, based in southwest Pennsylvania. Ryan's focus is on recruiting skilled talent for advanced manufacturing and the skilled trades, a service well suited to LMMC members' workforce needs. Equiliem also shares LMMC's commitment to youth manufacturing awareness, recognizing its importance for the industry's long-term sustainability.

Welcome to LMMC, Equiliem!

Membership



“She Builds” Returns to Zelienople Oct. 15

Robinson is bringing back “She Builds” for a second year on Thursday, October 15 at its Zelienople, Pa. facility.

The free event connects women with careers in manufacturing and the skilled trades through hands-on experiences like the virtual welding truck simulator, speaker sessions with women already working in the field, scholarship opportunities, facility tours and a career fair. Food trucks round out the day.

Missed it last year? [Watch a highlight video](#) from She Builds 2025.

Space fills up fast, so register early: [Click to register](#)

Calendar

- [Oct. 15 -- ARC ARISE Energy Grant Workshop for Manufacturers \(date change\) - click here to register or learn more](#)

LMMC in the News

- [Manufacturers Build Their Own Talent Pipeline \(Business Journal\)](#)
 - [Column: Manufacturing’s Greatest Risk Isn’t the Economy \(Business Journal\)](#)
 - [A Pathway to Careers in Manufacturing \(Business Journal\)](#)
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