



**IOWA
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ABI's Iowa Manufacturing Conference to Spotlight AI Innovation, Workforce Solutions, and Industry Leadership

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) will host its annual Iowa Manufacturing Conference on October 2nd at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. The one-day conference will explore issues important to all Iowa manufacturers such as innovative workforce solutions, retaining diverse talent, risk management, and more.

As manufacturing continues to be Iowa's largest GDP driver, this one-day conference provides a platform for industry professionals to gather and exchange insights from their peers. The conference will also provide opportunities for company owners, operation leaders, and others to be inspired to take their teams and companies to the next level.

Keynote speaker, Jack Shaw, is a leading expert in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, known for his ability to simplify complex concepts. With over 20 years of experience and a recent focus on AI, he has become a sought-after speaker. Conference goers will discover how AI is transforming manufacturing today and what lies ahead in the next 5-10 years.

In addition to Shaw's keynote, attendees will hear from Atlantic Bottling Company's Kirk Tyler, Chairman of the Board, and Rob Feeney, CEO and President. Together they will provide insights into their experiences leading a multigenerational family business, honoring the past of a 115-year-old business, and building for growth and future success.

Legends in Manufacturing will also be celebrated during the conference, as part of ABI's Elevate Advanced Manufacturing initiative, which helps raise awareness about manufacturing careers in Iowa and provides scholarships to high school students. The day will conclude with local, optional tours of Accumold, Kreg Tool, and Housby.

"We're excited to bring together Iowa's top manufacturing leaders to share insights, explore innovative solutions, and celebrate the industry's impact on our state's economy," said Mike Ralston, ABI President. "This conference is a unique opportunity to learn, collaborate, and inspire the future of manufacturing in Iowa."

For registration and a detailed agenda, visit www.iowaabi.org/abimfg.

Media inquiries and pre-event interviews are encouraged. Media is also welcome to attend the event.

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The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) has been the voice of Iowa business since 1903. Its mission is to provide a strong, unified voice to business and industry on issues affecting Iowa employers. ABI is comprised of member companies representing all industries and sizes in Iowa's 99 counties. ABI members employ more than 330,000 Iowans.