

AGENDA

Day 1

1 PM

Registration Opens

1:30 - 2 PM

Opening Remarks:
Phil Mintz – NCMEP
Ben Kinney – Business NC

2 - 2:50 PM

Opening Keynote: 2025 Viewpoint: As the World & Markets Turn
Jim Reichard – Managing Director and Market Investment Executive, Bank of America

3 - 4 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Winston 3A

Navigating the Talent Landscape: Strategies for Acquisition, Hiring, Retention and Internships

Danielle Stilwell – HRD
Recruitment Manager, Columbia Forest Products

Michael Lewis – Intern,
Appalachian State University

Jose Rico Martinez – Intern,
Lenoir-Rhyne University

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Winston 3B

How EOS Can Propel a Manufacturer's Growth

Walt Brown – EOS (Entrepreneurial Operation System) Implementer

Bryan Bunker – President, Nomaco

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Winston 3C

How the Federal US Government can assist exporters increase their sales through Financing Support and Credit Insurance

Melissa McGurk – International Trade Manager, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (Moderator)

Julie Detmering – Export Compliance Manager - Equilibar

Susan Kintanar – Regional Director, Export-Import Bank of the US

Lisa Shimkat – Associate Administrator, Office of Field Operations, US Small Business Administration

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4 - 4:30 PM

Leadership Awards Ceremony

4:30 - 6 PM

Celebration of NC Manufacturing Reception and Vendor Tradeshow

6 PM

Adjourn

Visit MFGCON.ORG for up to date changes to the schedule

AGENDA

Day 2

7 AM

Registration Opens

7:30 AM

Breakfast Available

8 AM

Opening Remarks/Announcements/General Session: *Embracing AI in Manufacturing:*

Adrienne Kroll – Assistant Director of Quality, NC State Industry Expansion Solutions (Moderator)

Nichole Holroyd – COO, Spiritus Systems

Mason Whitaker – President, Volt Technologies

Igor Jablovkov – Founder and Chair, Pryon

9:30 - 10:30 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Winston 3A

Building a Cyber Game Plan in the Era of Ransomware

Brian Vigna – Instructional Designer and Security Awareness Training Specialist, NC State Industry Expansion Solutions

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Winston 3B

Securing Your Workforce: Employee Retention in the Intelligence Age

Alfred Gardner – Senior Human Resources Consultant, Georgia Manufacturing Partnership

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Winston 3C

Business Resilience and Succession Planning Through Employee Ownership

Illa Burbank – Executive Director, NC Employee Ownership Center

Pamela Colley – Regional Government Affairs Manager, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories

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10:30 - 11 AM

Networking Break with Exhibitors

11 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Investing in Innovation: The ROI of Engineering Interns

Dan Grimsley – Operations Training Manager, Chatsworth

Anna Mangum – Regional Manager, NC State Industry Expansion Solutions

Maximizing Community College Partnerships

Kevin Ashmore – Business Development Director; **Clifton Dial** – Operations Manager; **Tyler Graves** – Director of Operations, We Pack Logistics

Leighton Bell – Director of Customized Training; **John Kester** – Dean of Engineering and Trades, Richmond Community College

Amy Epley – Customized Training, Regional Director, NC Community College System

Smart Sensing II - From the Breadboard to the Dashboard

Jason Low – Senior Manufacturing Engineering Specialist, NC State Industry Expansion Solutions

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Noon

Buffet Lunch Available

12:30 PM

Closing Keynote: *Beyond Paychecks: Cultivating Engagement for Long Term Success*

Lindsey Crisp – President and CEO, Carver Machine Works Global

1:15 - 1:30 PM

Closing Comments and Door Prizes

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