



Harold King
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A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

DEAR READER

Is the public perception of manufacturing changing? Is the message about modern manufacturing starting to be heard? Are publications like HV Mfg having their desired impact?

I believe the answer is “yes.” That is “yes”, but more needs to be done.

There is no doubt that elected officials are hearing the message that manufacturing remains vital to the economy of our nation, state and region. We know this from our visits to our representatives in Washington, DC and Albany, and by the attention our member firms are getting from local, county, and municipal elected officials. It is true that educators are getting the message that STEM education is essential and provides a pathway to lucrative and rewarding careers in manufacturing and other growing sectors of our economy. We know this from the increased engagements the Council of Industry and its members are having with school principals, teachers and guidance counselors throughout the Hudson Valley, who want to learn more about what we do and where their students might fit in. What’s more we sense attitudes about manufacturing in the general public are shifting from indifference to respect. This is most encouraging.

But much remains to be done as misperceptions linger and public policy is often still misaligned. With all that in mind, we offer this spring 2018 edition of HV Mfg which, we hope, will continue to educate and inform, but also highlight some of our successes. One such highlight is the leader profile of Aaron Hopmayer, Principal of Pine Bush High School. Mr. Hopmayer leads an innovative staff that is raising the bar for student career and college readiness and he is the first non-manufacturer to be the featured leader in HV Mfg. Johnnieanne Hansen highlights several workforce development successes including the launch of the MIAP Apprentice program, GoMakeIt.org and the Council’s newest attempt to fill the pipeline of manufacturing workers - a Collaborative Recruiting Initiative that will leverage our resources to fill current manufacturing jobs. Alison Butler introduces us to Andre Santa in a new HV Mfg feature on Emerging Leaders in manufacturing. Mr. Santa is the Chemist and Quality Assurance Process Engineer Manager at Eastern Alloys in Maybrook.

For our more familiar features, to spread the word about modern manufacturing in the Hudson Valley Ms. Butler offers a profile of EFCO Products, a 115 year old manufacturer of bakery supplies that is reinventing itself to meet the evolving tastes of consumers. David King writes on the latest trends in neurotechnology – these brain computer interfaces have the potential of changing medicine as well as other sectors. We introduce you to the alternative risk strategy provided by the captive insurance model and the Council’s captive offering to its members. Finally, we include a directory of Council of Industry members and associate members. These are the firms and organizations that care the most about Hudson Valley Manufacturing – supporting the Council of Industry with their time, dollars and other resources.

I hope in reading this edition of HV Mfg you sense the same progress that I do – that perceptions about manufacturing have improved greatly from 5 years ago to today.

Let’s keep the momentum going. **CI**

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