

MADE IN ILLINOIS

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Plan. Implement. Excel.

PRESS KIT 2021

For Immediate Release:

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WHAT: The Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center is presenting a virtual book launch of its new book [*Made In Illinois: A Modern Playbook for Manufacturers To Compete and Win.*](#)

WHY: Available on the IMEC website, the book examines several areas such as how to accelerate global competitiveness, rethink in defining global excellence, and reimagine the path to organizational success. Also, there are seven compelling interviews with manufacturers who share their experiences working in this industry.

IMEC wants manufacturing companies to look at *Made in Illinois* as their pit crew and guide as they read peer and expert voices who fully understand their experiences. These voices share their insights as a way to energize companies' staff and leaders as they lay the foundation to become successful global competitors.

WHERE: The launch will be on Facebook Live on this [link](#).

WHEN: 6 p.m. Thursday, April 22

About IMEC:

The Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) is a team of improvement specialists and technicians dedicated to providing organizations in Illinois with the tools and techniques to create sustainable competitive futures. The experienced hands-on team at IMEC works closely with its clients to plan critical business improvements in the areas of **Leadership, Strategy, Customer Engagement, Operations, and Workforce.**

With more than 50 full-time staff and partners positioned statewide, IMEC delivers the local expertise to not only plan and strategize, but to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of client improvements. In fact, IMEC assists more than 700 companies each year with successful business improvement projects.

As a result, **IMEC has demonstrated a return on investment that exceeds 19:1.** This is made possible as organizations become more effective and efficient and - together with IMEC - excel toward enterprise excellence. For information about IMEC, visit imec.org.

Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center Releases New Book Made In Illinois

Experts Share Insights To Help Companies Be Strong, Successful Global Competitors

(Peoria, Illinois) April 22, 2021—The Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) announced a new book which is described as a guide and valuable resource to help manufacturing companies become successful competitors on the global stage.

IMEC, which is also celebrating its 25th anniversary serving manufacturers, introduces [*Made In Illinois: A Modern Playbook for Manufacturers To Compete and Win*](#). Within the book, readers gather insights from leaders from Illinois-based companies such as Motorola, Watchfire Signs, F. N. Smith Corporation, G&W Electric, Header Die and Tool, GAM Enterprises, and Ace Metal Crafts. Some of the subjects covered include the value of customer relationships, defining excellence, and integrating technology for greater process innovation.

Praising Illinois for having a rich manufacturing tradition that presents many assets and strengths, IMEC President David Boulay explained in the book how the creative process was to examine the essential elements of manufacturing success.

“Every company aims to leverage leadership and strategy to better focus on customers and align operational performance, workforce talent, and knowledge management,” he wrote. “As efforts such as the US Department of Commerce NIST Baldrige Performance Excellence Program has long demonstrated, these are powerful aspects of business success. We frame these elements into three parts: people, performance, and mindset. Within these categories, we share best practices, insights, lessons learned, and questions to inspire new thoughts.”

Boulay reminds people how essential manufacturers are to everyday life, creating many items that are used around the world.

“Everything we buy from the store or get ‘magically’ delivered to our doorstep comes from a manufacturer,” Boulay wrote. “It’s a reminder how important our incredibly talented makers are for society. With that, we hope *Made in Illinois* offers readers new insights, validates tried and true practices, and gives way to new thinking about modern manufacturing and its many unsung heroes across the great state of Illinois.”

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Recently Published!

A MODERN PLAYBOOK FOR MANUFACTURERS TO COMPETE AND WIN



- Accelerate global competitiveness
- Rethink how you define “excellence”
- Reimagine the path to organizational success
- Includes 7 compelling interviews with manufacturers who have “been there, done that”
- A book for every member of your team: C-suite, operations, HR, engineering, sales, front office, board level, R&D, founders, frontline supervisors, seconds-in-commands, and all the future leaders of your organization

The world of manufacturing is changing. Are you prepared for the global stage?

The global manufacturing stage is being reset and opportunities abound. Are you prepared to win? Will you build a culture that attracts a wider talent pool? How will you cultivate a high performance team? What strategies can you put into play with current resources and minimal investment? How will you inspire resilient leadership?

From our work with manufacturers across the beautiful state of Illinois, we've put together the best-kept secrets on hot button issues, including:

- Widening your hiring pool
- Improving internal communication
- Understanding your voice of customer
- Integrating new technology on your shop floor
- Developing a great sales team
- Implementing a solid go-to-market strategy
- Preparing for crisis
- Creating a path to organizational success
- Includes easy-to-use checklists for repeatable success and insightful interviews with Illinois manufacturers
- And more!

IMEC Impact

With more than 50 full-time staff and partners positioned statewide, IMEC delivers the local expertise to not only plan and strategize, but to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of client improvements. In fact, IMEC assists more than 700 companies each year with successful improvement and innovation projects.

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Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center

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David Boulay
President

My leadership has developed from diverse settings that extend from a family-owned business, to manufacturing, universities, and non-profits. These various experiences help guide our public-private partnership's strategic direction to serve as a catalyst for small and mid-sized company competitiveness.

I grew up in a family-owned business where I learned first-hand about the trial, challenges, and pride that I see in the owners and leaders of companies we work with today. I recognize their situations, understand their challenges, and have the tools and knowledge to help accomplish their goals. I have also had the good fortune to work in various manufacturing roles from food plant sanitation to maintenance supervision to production, plant manager, and business unit manager in companies such as Frito-Lay and Pillsbury.

Through these experiences, I learned how company success is reliant on the skills and talents of its workforce. This has driven my passion in human resource development. My Ph.D. included a primary focus on high performance work practices in small and mid-sized companies and career pathways for workers.

I bring a diverse blend of expertise in performance management, small business development, and organizational growth strategies to IMEC. I have helped create and implement several initiatives to increase the flow of state and federal funding to manufacturers for projects, update worker skills, and help smaller manufacturers adopt new technology and business practices and to improve energy efficiency.

**Mike Monahan****Vice President, Finance & Information Systems**

I bring over 30 years of experience in economic development, business consulting, organizational planning and reporting, and systems administration to the IMEC team.

As IMEC's Vice President of Finance and Information Systems, I am able to utilize the wealth of knowledge and expertise I've acquired from successfully developing a number of information systems to support economic development organizations, and consulting with manufacturers and service companies to develop custom applications to support their operations. My strong background in data analysis, computer systems, financial and grant reporting, financial and business planning, and database development allows me to support IMEC's growth by providing leadership through technology and financial systems.

