

Joleen Barnes, InTech Industries, Ramsey, MN

Thanks for your time today, John. As you can see I'm very excited about this opportunity, not just for InTech but for the state, county, industry and people of the industry.

I'm passionate about this as I have been in HR Management at InTech for over 10 years, struggling, as many other employers in the area, to find candidates and good workers to fill our open Tooling and Machining positions. I also see this grant can open a world up to people who have some basic manufacturing skills but could not get support or resources to put themselves through school to learn the necessary skills for career advancement and the possibility to earn decent compensation. This opportunity not only helps the trainees and the employers of the trainees but it helps the whole industry rejuvenate again by working together to bring compensation and career satisfaction to current good, motivated employees who can advance the industry and the businesses. We all win by this opportunity.

-JB

Jason Fuglsby, SIMHOF, Ramsey, MN

Hi John,

I wanted to reach out and say thank you so much for the call. As a military veteran and a Ramsey business owner, I really support your efforts to inspire, engage and improve the manufacturing industry. I am really excited to be part of the cohort to learn and network with others. If there is anything else I can do to support your efforts, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Jason Fuglsby  
SIMHOF - Owner  
952-221-4908  
[www.simhof.com](http://www.simhof.com)

Jim Merritt, Altron, Inc, Ramsey, MN

Hi John,

With today's labor market, Altron LLC, and many other manufacturers are in dire need to hire people in the manufacturing industry. In the last 11+ years we have had several meetings and workshops to help inform the education system as to what we need as they are the feeders to our work force. These great paying jobs for people that don't want to go to college, we feel the school system is essential to the success of the

manufacturing industry. Currently we are looking for more automation to help replace the lower skill level jobs as the only other alternative due to the shortage workforce. The automation would be a big expense during a difficult time. The majority of manufacturers around the USA have job opening that are not being filled due to the government decision to enable our workforce to stay home during this difficult time. Manufacturers are losing business because they can't delivery product due to the lack of workforce, which will also have a negative impact on federal, state , city and county budgets..

We here at Altron believes it is very important time to put more effort into the Manufacturing CoHort group, as the Cohort group has been very essential for the Anoka county and surrounding areas in building our employment resources. This is a very important time to get manufacturing back up and running and be an example to the rest United States.

Thank You,

James Merritt  
National Sales & Marketing Manager  
[virtex.us/Altron.html](http://virtex.us/Altron.html)

Chris Benyo, Lift and Grow & Lift and Store, Ramsey, MN

John-- To follow up on our conversation of the other day, I wanted to send a brief email about our interactions together.

In the time we have spoken to each other (likely approaching three years!), you have been nothing but professional and entirely concerned with the health and well being of the manufacturing sector in Ramsey City and Anoka County.

In meeting after meeting you have worked to provide the needed connections to get businesses staffed and to have the governmental resources available to help build both the employment and tax base of this city.

I have never once regretted moving our business from White Bear Lake to Ramsey.

Chris Benyo

**CHRIS BENYO**

Chief Executive Officer, Lift and Grow & Lift and Store

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Kent Djubeck, Ajax Metal Forming Solutions,

John,

Per our last conversation, I can't say how much we appreciate all the work that the Manufacturing CoHort has done for manufacturing! As an industry that has been regarded as dark, dirty and dangerous, the work of you and the CoHort to bring manufacturing back to the forefront is truly inspiring. As you know Ajax Metal Forming Solutions has been in business for over 75 years and has family values with our colleagues revered at the top. We pride ourselves as one of the safest Manufacturer's in Minnesota as well as the nation. Through help from you and your organization we again have won another Governor's Safety Award and we are striving to win another Top Workplace award for the seventh year in a row! As you know, manufacturing is a vital part of our economy and training our young people in a career in manufacturing is paramount to our success! The direction the CoHort has taken in automation is helping us find our path to robots, cobots and more automation.

Thank you for all you do! Looking forward to the next time we can get together.

Best regards,

-Kent

**Kent M. Djubek | President**

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