



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2013

Contact: Emily Marthaler
202-367-1112

Midwestern States Celebrate October 4th as Manufacturing Day

Washington, D.C. – Midwestern states are celebrating October 4, 2013 as National Manufacturing Day. Manufacturing Day is a national effort to highlight the advancements, opportunities and importance of manufacturing in the U.S.

“Manufacturing is a vital component of our Midwestern economy, providing many good-paying jobs for hard-working families,” said Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, Chair of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA). “Throughout the world, Midwestern goods are in high demand, resulting in jobs and economic growth for the region.”

The manufacturing sector has played a significant role in the growth of the Midwest, and the region continues to be a national leader in the industry. Manufacturing employs more people on average in Midwestern states than the national average. The Midwest is also a leader in many manufacturing subsectors, including 62 percent of the nation’s total GDP in the motor vehicle, body, trailer and parts category. With a strong legacy, skilled workforce and a competitive advantage of low-cost energy, the region is well positioned for future growth in advanced manufacturing.

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Immediate Past Chair of the MGA, said, “Iowa has a diverse manufacturing sector which is a vital part of the Iowa economy. Our efforts to ensure that we have a skilled workforce, combined with our low cost of energy and central location, help Iowa and Midwestern manufacturers compete in a dynamic, global economy. Lt. Governor Reynolds and I made the week of Sept. 30th, 2013, ‘Manufacturing Week’ in the State of Iowa and toured the State to see the innovation of our manufacturers and skills of our workforce first-hand.”

Ohio Governor John R. Kasich said, “Cities across Ohio and the Midwest were built on manufacturing. That history should be celebrated but we should be even more excited about what the future could hold in advanced manufacturing, polymers, aviation and much more. In Ohio alone, more than 600,000 people make a living making things, and we are preparing our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow so what once was the rustbelt can continue its conversion into a beltway for economic growth and job creation.”

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker said, “Manufacturing is the backbone of Wisconsin’s economy and plays a critical role across the Midwest, keeping our businesses and states at the forefront of innovation. The industry is vital to our state’s economic growth, which is why we’re recognizing Manufacturing Day in Wisconsin and also declaring October as Manufacturing Month.”

In 2012, the MGA released a series of brochures that showcases our regional strengths, including one highlighting the region’s growing advanced manufacturing sector. In addition to manufacturing, the series included brochures on the bioeconomy, low-cost energy and transportation.

For more information on Manufacturing Day, events in your area or to learn more about manufacturing, visit <http://www.mfgday.com/>.

The MGA's manufacturing brochure, *America's Smartland: Growing Our Advanced Manufacturing*, is available at www.midwesterngovernors.org/publications.htm. Check out the winning entries of the MGA's video contest, *America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You!*, by visiting <http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/AmericasSmartland.htm>.

###

The [MGA](#) is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together the governors of Midwestern states to work cooperatively on issues of importance to the region. Current members of the MGA are Gov. Pat Quinn (Ill.), Gov. Mike Pence (Ind.), Gov. Terry Branstad (Iowa), Gov. Sam Brownback (Kansas), Gov. Rick Snyder (Mich.), Gov. Mark Dayton (Minn.), Gov. Jay Nixon (Mo.), Gov. John Kasich (Ohio) and Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.).