



8th Annual

# INDUSTRIAL SUMMIT

*A Celebration of Growth, Innovation, and Teamwork*



Oct. 3, 2025



Lemoore College

[SouthValleyIndustrialCollaborative.org](https://SouthValleyIndustrialCollaborative.org)



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### LANCE HASTINGS

**President and CEO of the  
California Manufacturers &  
Technology Association (CMTA)**

Under his leadership, CMTA passed historic legislation to provide a sales tax exemption for manufacturing equipment with a broad, bipartisan coalition. Hastings also grew membership for the fourth consecutive year, including during the COVID pandemic. He also pivoted the communications team to be more focused on visual and digital storytelling to recapture the manufacturing narrative, which has garnered global media attention.

Before his extensive career as a manufacturing executive, Hastings was the Vice President of Government Relations at the California Grocers Association and Senior Director for State Affairs at the Grocery Manufacturers of America. Hastings also served as legislative staff in the California State Legislature for almost a decade, concluding as a Chief Consultant in 1997.

His passion for community and economic development stems from his time serving on multiple boards. Hastings is on the Board of Directors of the Red Cross Sierra-Delta Chapter and also served in the following capacities: President of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC) at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Elk Grove, Board of Directors for the Food Industry Association Executives (FIAE), Advisory Board of California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED), and the California Future of Work Commission as an appointee of Governor Newsom, and Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (Biz-Fed).

# AGENDA

[SouthValleyIndustrialCollaborative.org](https://SouthValleyIndustrialCollaborative.org)

**8:00-9:00**

Registration & Vendor Showcase

**9:00-9:25**

Summit Kick off with Chairman Rodney Wilson, James Preston, Lemoore College President, and John Gonzalez, Workforce Investment Board Good Jobs Challenge Update

**9:25-10:00**

Keynote Speaker Lance Hastings, President and CEO of the CMTA

**10:00-10:15**

Break and Exhibits

**10:15 - 11:00**

Morning Breakout Sessions

- Fall 2025 California Labor & Employment Law Update: Mike Conway, Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC
- "The AI Mindshift: Turning AI From a Tool Into a Teammate": Allen Fortune, Fortune Five Marketing
- Clean Energy Workforce Development by Southern California Edison: Lionel Moreno, SCE and Adam Delatorre, HMET
- Unlock the Potential of SACA in Secondary Education: Matt Haass, Klein Educational Systems, Inc.
- Industry 4.0 Skills: SACA 201 Electrical Systems 1 Certificate Training

**11:15-12:15**

Lunch and Panel Discussion "Best Practices for On-the-Job Training": Adrian Garza Ruiz Foods; Adriana Fonseca Launch Apprenticeship; Estevan Benevides City of Lemoore; Grant Ermis (Moderator) Lemoore College

**12:30-1:15**

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

- Fall 2025 California Labor & Employment Law Update: Mike Conway, Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC
- "The AI Mindshift: Turning AI From a Tool Into a Teammate": Allen Fortune, Fortune Five Marketing
- Clean Energy Workforce Development by Southern California Edison: Lionel Moreno, SCE and Adam Delatorre, HMET
- Unlock the Potential of SACA in Secondary Education: Matt Haass, Klein Educational Systems, Inc.
- Beyond the Panel: Real Talk on Apprenticeships in Advanced Manufacturing: Adriana Fonseca, Launch Apprenticeship, Bryan Medina, COS, and Amy Baker, Lemoore College
- Industry 4.0 Skills: SACA 201 Electrical Systems 1 Certificate Training

**1:30-2:00**

Closing Remarks and Raffle



**Rodney Wilson**

Electric Motor Shop, Distribution Manager  
Chairman, South Valley Industrial Collaborative



## Welcome to the South Valley Industrial Summit

On behalf of the South Valley Industrial Collaborative (SVIC), we are excited to welcome you to our growing network of industry, education, and community leaders. Our mission is clear: to strengthen our communities through workforce development and talent pipeline management.

SVIC proudly represents the voice of industry, ensuring that the needs and expectations of employers are at the center of workforce solutions. One of the greatest challenges we face today is bridging the gap between what graduates know when they leave school and what industry requires for them to be truly job-ready. Too often, employers must provide years of additional training before employees can contribute at their full potential. Together, we aim to close this gap by aligning education, training, and industry standards.

To achieve this, SVIC embraces the NextGen sector partnership model, and currently utilizing Good Jobs Challenge, bringing together businesses, educational institutions, the Workforce Investment Board, Kings EDC and many other community resources. Through this collaboration, we are working to enhance and strengthen our local economies, while creating pathways that connect people to great-paying, sustainable careers.

We invite you to engage with us as we continue building stronger connections, reducing barriers, and preparing the workforce of tomorrow. By working together, we can ensure that the South Valley remains a thriving place where industry prospers, communities flourish, and individuals have the opportunity to succeed.

Working Better! Together.

Rodney Wilson, SVIC Chairman of the Board





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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

PLC Training

**Short-Term Training**

10/2/2025 - 11/6/2025 (Thursdays)

<https://bit.ly/PLCEdison>

Supervisory Academy

**Short-Term Training**

1/27/2026 - 3/5/2026 (Tuesdays, Thursdays)

<https://bit.ly/supervisory26>

Employer Appreciation Breakfast

**COS Appreciates You!**

5/1/2026

NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Training

**Short-Term Training**

10/10/2025

<https://bit.ly/NFPA70E25>

AG & Trades Job Fair

**Connect | Recruit | Hire**

3/17/2026

[AGTrades2026.eventbrite.com](https://AGTrades2026.eventbrite.com)

Training Resource Center Open House

**New Location Ribbon Cutting**

TBA



Ruiz Foods has been selected as the 2025 South Valley Industrial Collaborative Industry Partner of the Year for their leadership, innovation, and dedication to strengthening the industrial workforce pipeline in California's Central Valley.

### About Ruiz Foods

Founded in 1964 and headquartered in Dinuba, California, Ruiz Foods is the nation's leading manufacturer of frozen Mexican food products, best known for its flagship El Monterey® brand. A family-owned business with more than 4,000 employees nationwide, Ruiz Foods has built its success on quality, innovation, and community engagement. Their commitment to people extends beyond their workforce to partnerships that invest in education, training, and long-term economic growth across the region.

### Leading Through Partnership

In November 2024, Ruiz Foods opened its doors to educators, industry leaders, and workforce professionals by hosting the Industrial Manufacturing Sector Summit. This event created a collaborative space to share best practices, discuss emerging needs, and chart a course for the future of manufacturing in the South Valley.

The company also welcomed the California Workforce Development Board in August



2025 to its Dinuba headquarters, providing state leadership with direct insights into the challenges and opportunities facing manufacturers in Central California. By engaging at both regional and statewide levels, Ruiz Foods has ensured that the voice of local industry is heard in shaping policy and investment strategies.





### **Innovation and Investment**

Ruiz Foods has been an active participant in the Good Jobs Challenge, contributing to regional discussions and helping design practical solutions to industrial workforce challenges. Their commitment to innovation extends to training, where they co-created and supported the Power Up and Power Up 2.0 entry-level programs. These initiatives have expanded access to manufacturing careers for individuals eager to enter the field and build sustainable livelihoods.

The company's investment in talent pipelines is equally significant. Ruiz Foods has hired graduates from Industrial Maintenance programs at College of the Sequoias and Lemoore College, providing robust on-the-job training to ensure their long-term success in the industry.

### **Inspiring the Next Generation**

Ruiz Foods actively invests in the next generation by partnering with local Jumpstart programs. Through facility tours and hands-on experiences, rising high school seniors gain early exposure to careers in manufacturing and see how technical education can lead to high-quality career pathways. By engaging students at a pivotal stage, Ruiz Foods is helping to inspire future talent and shape the workforce of the Central Valley.

### **Lasting Impact**

Through its leadership, innovation, and unwavering investment in people, Ruiz Foods has strengthened the bridge between education and industry, created meaningful opportunities for students and job seekers, and advanced the economic vitality of the Central Valley.

For their vision, leadership, and unwavering investment in people, we are proud to honor Ruiz Foods as the 2025 South Valley Industrial Collaborative Industry Partner of the Year.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Electric Motor Shop  
Visalia, CA



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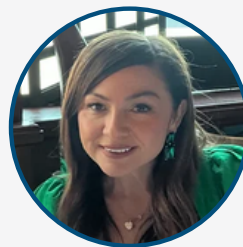
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## BREAK OUT SESSION SPEAKERS



### ALLEN FORTUNE

**Fortune Five Marketing**  
"The Ai Mindshift: Turning  
AI From a Tool Into a  
Teammate"



### MIKE CONWAY

**Sagaser, Watkins &  
Wieland PC**  
Fall 2025 California Labor  
& Employment Law Update



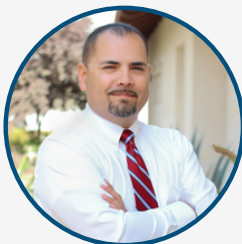
### MATT HAASS

**Klein Educational Systems,  
Inc.**  
Unlock the Potential of SACA  
in Secondary Education



### LIONEL MORENO

**Southern California  
Edison**  
Clean Energy Workforce  
Development



### ESTEVAN BENEVIDES

**City of Lemoore**  
"Best Practices for On-the-  
Job Training"



### ADRIANA FONSECA

**Launch Apprenticeship**  
Beyond the Panel: Real Talk  
on Apprenticeships in  
Advanced Manufacturing



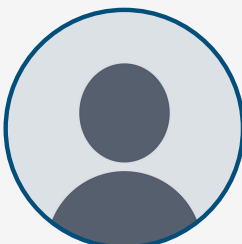
### BRYAN MEDINA

**College of the Sequoias**  
Beyond the Panel: Real Talk  
on Apprenticeships in  
Advanced Manufacturing



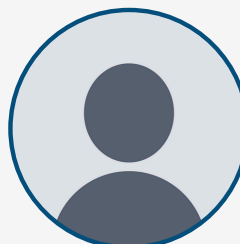
### AMY BAKER

**Lemoore College**  
Beyond the Panel: Real Talk  
on Apprenticeships in  
Advanced Manufacturing



### ADRIAN GARZA

**Ruiz Foods**  
"Best Practices for On-the-  
Job Training"



### ADAM DELATORRE

**HMET**  
Clean Energy Workforce  
Development

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8th Annual  
**INDUSTRIAL  
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*Special Thanks*

Amy Baker

Ashley Land

Bruce Nicotero

Charles Basso

Desi Marquez

Devon Jones

Donnette Silva

Gary Potter

Grant Ermis

John Gonzalez

Jonna Schengel

Lisa Martinez

Lisa Walsh

Rodney Wilson



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10.02.26  
*Save the Date!*

*9th Annual*

## INDUSTRIAL SUMMIT

SCE ENERGY EDUCATION CENTER  
TULARE, CA



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