Building Community and Business Partnerships through Education

Center for Labor & Community Research

Dan Swinney, Executive Director, CLCR

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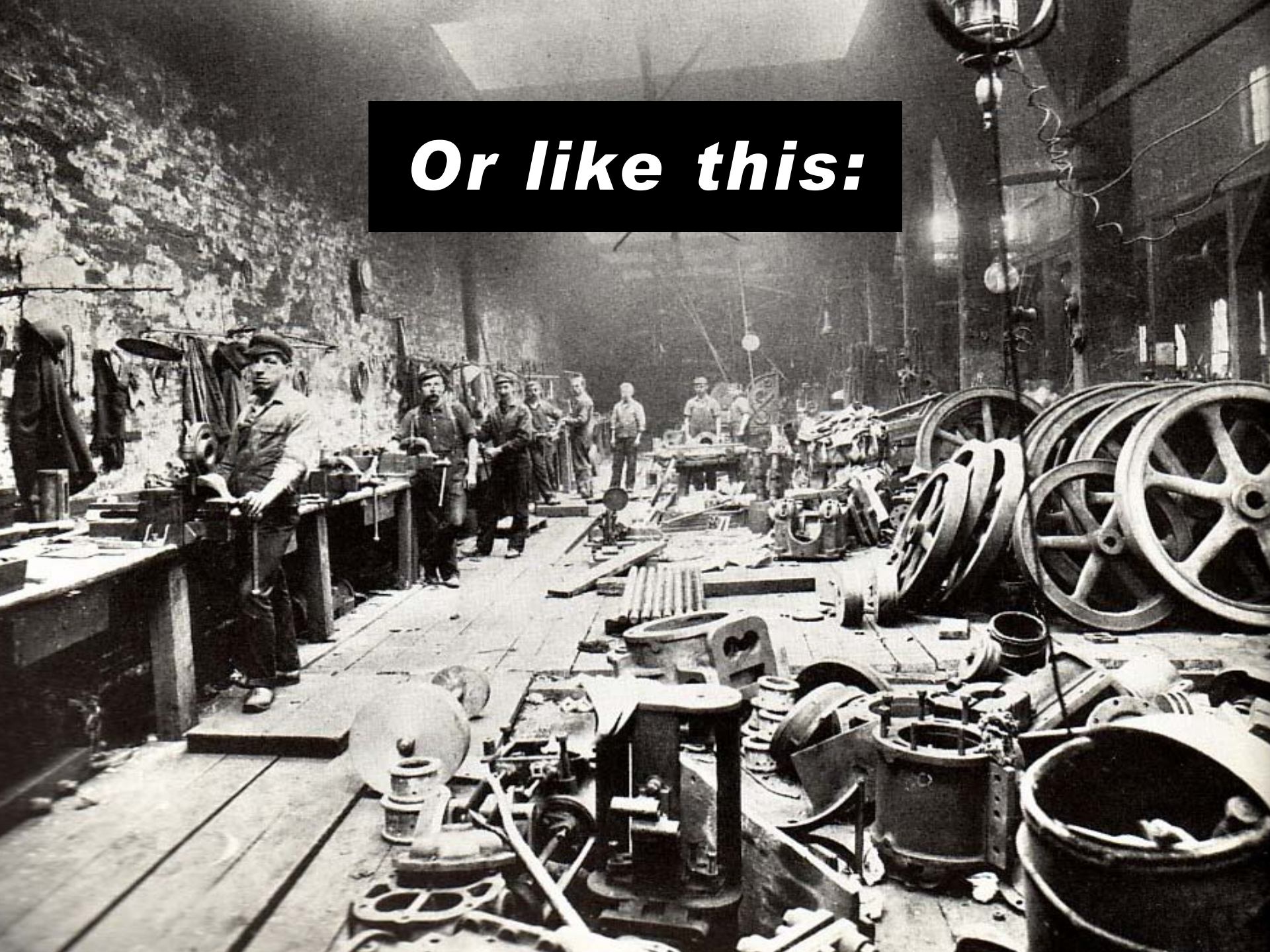
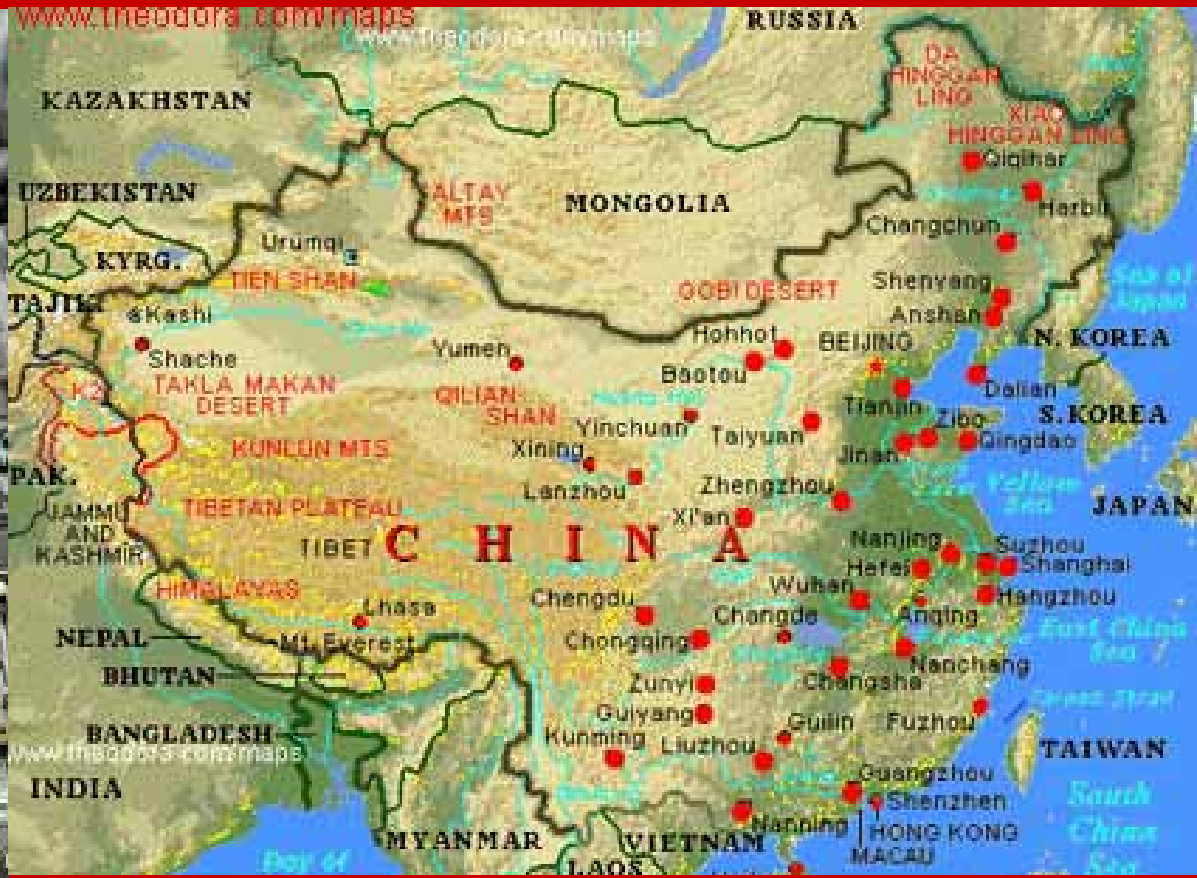
U.S. Manufacturing is at a Crossroads Because of Public Perception

Many Americans think factories look like this:


Or like this:

Or they're all going here:



A Brief History of American Manufacturing

The Reality: American Manufacturing is Alive and Well

$1.7 trillion
output in 2010

13 percent
of national GDP

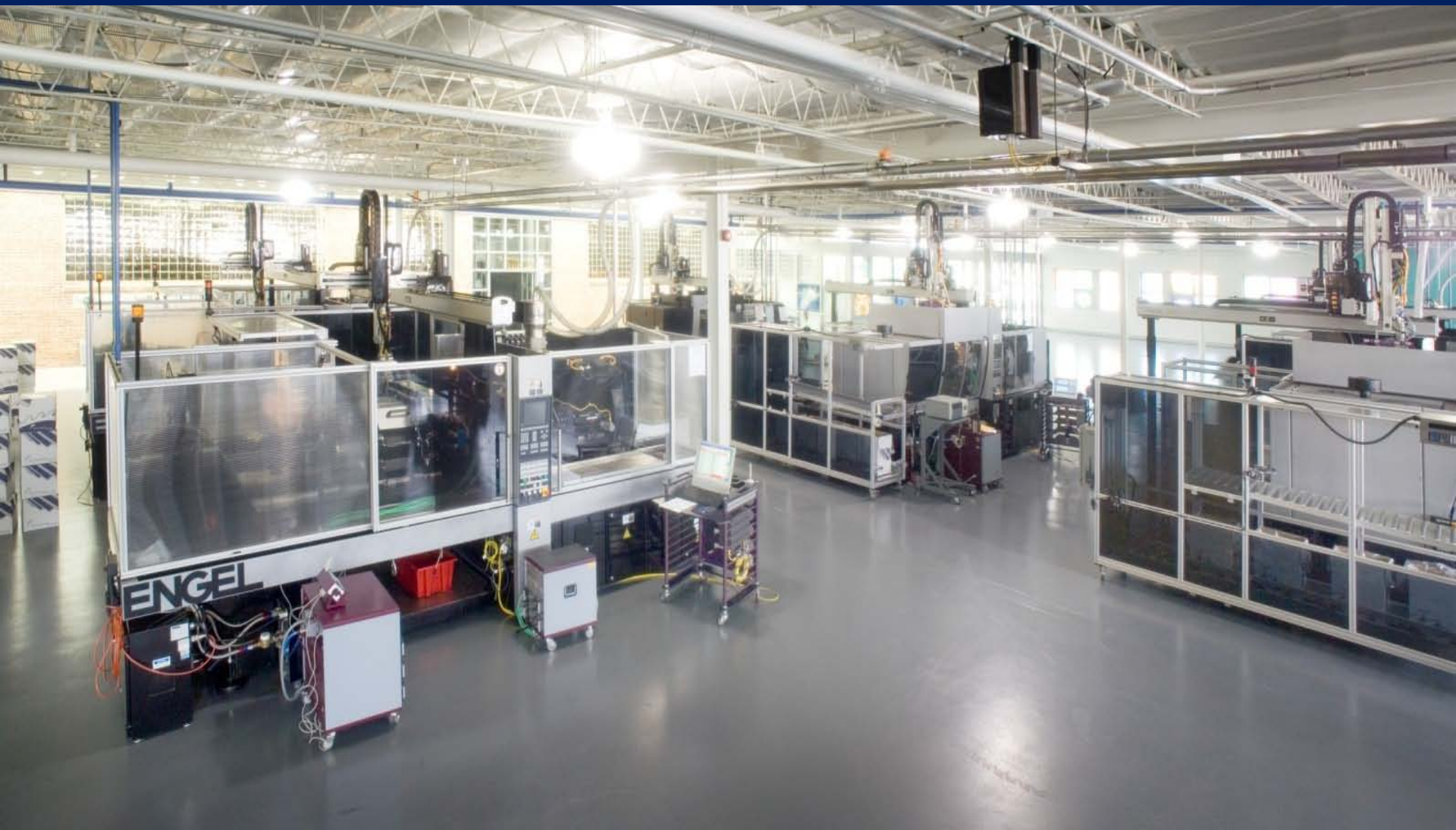
12 million
employees

$75,217
average worker compensation

#1 most
productive workforce

Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Today's factories often look like this:



U.S. Manufacturing: Vibrant But At Risk

- Low-skilled work going off-shore
- Shift to high value-added production
- Public education abandoned link to modernizing manufacturing—a gap
- Baby Boomer retirement
- Powerful speculative trends in the financial community pushing the Low Road

A Fork in the Road

MRC Origins: Labor Exposes Failure in Public Education

2001 Report:
"Creating a Manufacturing Career Path System in Cook County"

Center for Labor & Community Research

Department of Labor United States of America

Chicago Federation of Labor

Advanced manufacturing needs an advanced workforce

More jobs could be filled, created

20 year vision for secondary and post-secondary

The Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council (MRC)

The Chicago MRC Vision

Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council

Advanced manufacturing:

- Intersects the most advanced technology, science, human innovation, work, and critical thinking.
- Integrates production, engineering and design, customer service, and employee engagement and involvement.
- Represents the highest fusion of public and private interests.

Why Advanced Manufacturing?

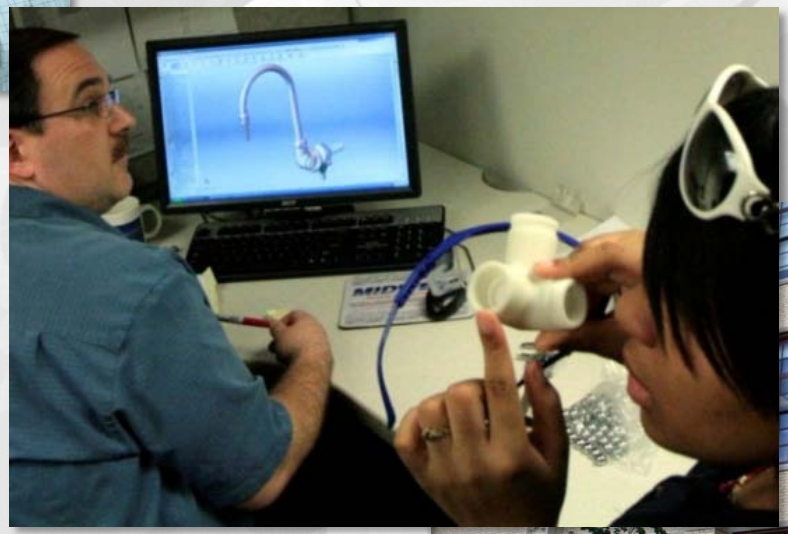
- The <u>only</u> sector that can sustain a broad-based middle class and end poverty:
  - High-paying careers
  - Each job supports 5 more
  - Tax base for social programs

- The <u>only</u> sector that can solve environmental challenges—industrial developers will restore the environment, not lawyers.

Manufacturing builds social capital and strong societies.

- Work is transformative, not toiling.
- Challenging, creative work in decent and social conditions to build individuals.
- Builds the fabric of society <u>during</u> work as well as improving the quality of life <u>after</u> work.

Chicago MRC Key Initiative: Austin Polytech Career Program



Austin Polytechnical Academy

austinpolytech.org

Inspired by Mondragon

- Arizmendi—a new development model
- 1940s: Higher Polytechnic Institute
- 1950s: a stove company and more
- 1970s: a shared bank, retail, and housing
- 100 companies employing 130,000 people

Austin Polytech Approach

- Small public high school (240 students) in predominantly African American community

- College and Career Prep
  - Standard Math, Science, Social Science, English
  - AP Calculus and AP English
  - Up to 4 years of pre-engineering

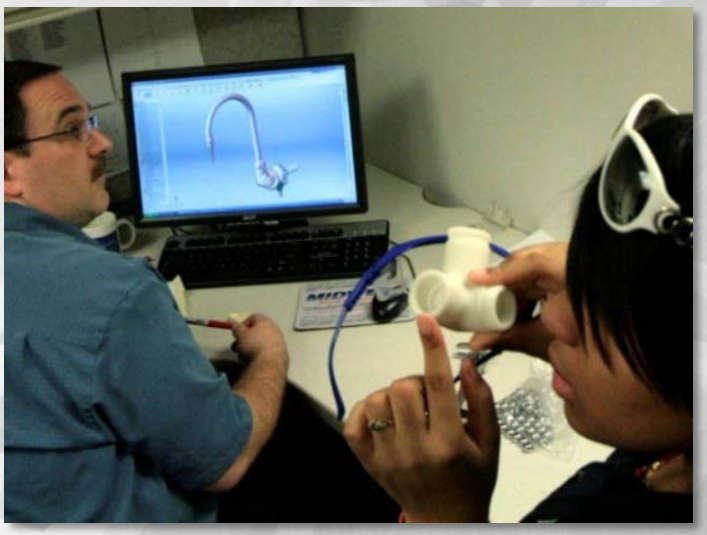
- Advanced machining for all students
  - Graduate with high school diploma AND industry-recognized NIMS machining certifications

Austin Polytech's Mission

- Prepare the next generation of leaders in all aspects of advanced manufacturing—not a trade school!

  - Skilled production positions
  - Management
  - Ownership
  - Related fields like policy, intellectual property, research, labor rights, etc.

Partners for Austin Polytech



- 60 partner manufacturing companies, plus relationships with colleges and universities

- Contextual learning and work experience in high school
  - Plant tours
  - Industry credentials
  - Job shadowing
  - Paid internships
  - Summer jobs
  - Career-track jobs

- Real opportunities, not just hope

Vision for Rebuilding the Austin Community

Demonstrate that our economic recovery will be in communities most affected by the crisis

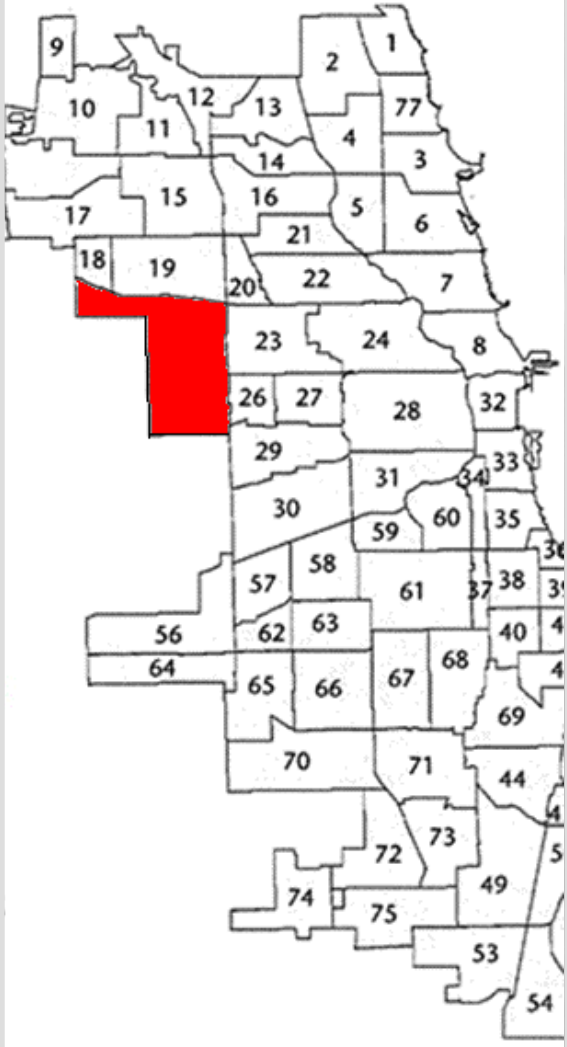
Link youth and adults to high wage careers through education

Austin Manufacturing Training Center for adults

Post-secondary opportunities

Austin Manufacturing Innovation and Tech Park

Attracting, strengthening and starting companies



Key Distinctions

- The application of international best practice in education to prepare our communities to be global leaders in advanced manufacturing.
- A strategic partnership in public education—business, labor, government, and community.
- The importance of starting in high schools.

Key Distinctions

- Transforming public education in partnership with teachers' unions
  and others.

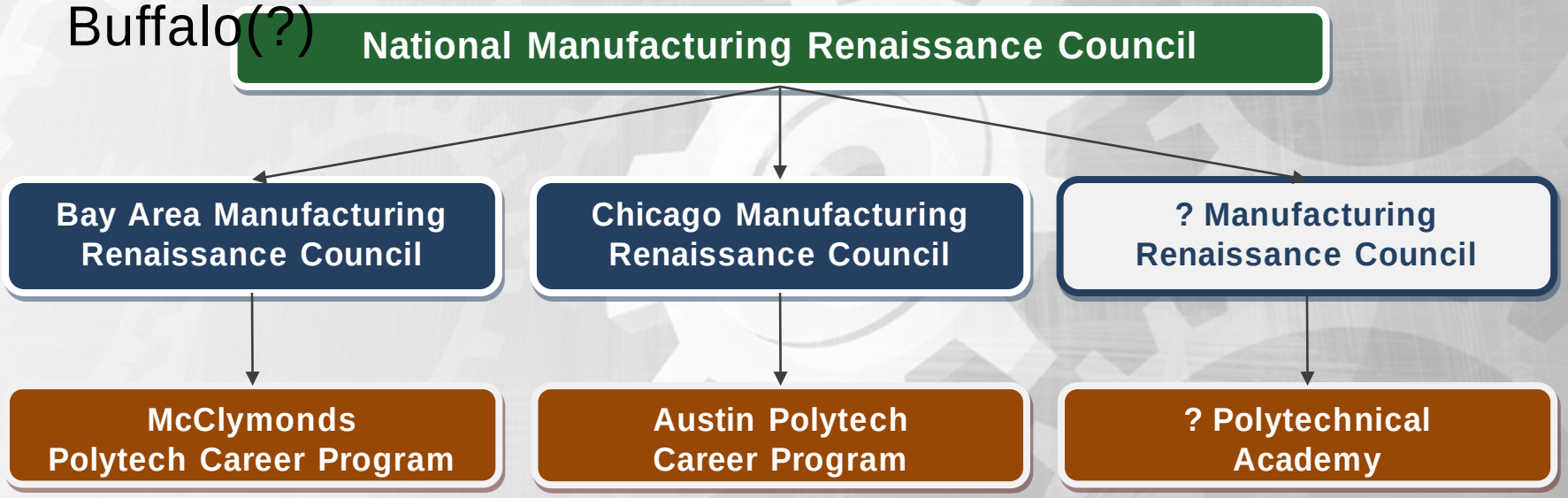
- Building communities.

- Leveraging private
  investment for public education.

- Changing the image of manufacturing through kids—influential in changing city policy.

The National Manufacturing Reanissance Council

- National Leadership: Manufacturing Institute, California Teachers Association, National Urban League, and others
- San Francisco Bay Area – McClymonds High School
- MRC efforts in New York, Newark, Detroit, and Buffalo(?)



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