



## Marlin Steel President to Moderate Manufacturing Day Panel of Maryland Gubernatorial Candidates

October 3, 2013

Maryland gubernatorial candidates are scheduled to appear at a forum on manufacturing Friday, Oct. 4 in what may be the first such gathering in the coming statewide election cycle.

Most have confirmed for the event at the Towson North Sheraton Hotel, according to Dr. Michael Galiazzo, president of the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland (RMI).

The keynote speaker prior to the forum is Dr. Michael Hicks, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University in Indiana. The center gave Maryland a D this spring in a report that graded the states on various measures of manufacturing health. After Hicks' talk, the candidates will be asked to respond on they would promote manufacturing in Maryland.

Drew Greenblatt, president of Marlin Steel, manufacturer of <u>material handling baskets</u>, and also the <u>chairman of RMI</u>, will moderate the panel.

RMI has been canvassing Maryland manufacturers on its website for several weeks, asking what they would do to propel manufacturing if they were governor. Their 100 or so responses will be shared with the gubernatorial candidates prior to the forum, Galiazzo said.

The Maryland event ties into a larger Manufacturing Day theme around the country that day and throughout the month. The awareness campaign is being coordinated by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), the Manufacturing Institute and the Fabricators Manufacturers Association International. Industrial Strength Marketing and the Science Channel are also partners in promoting the event.

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