We at the Center for Labor & Community Research are working diligently to spread our mission and programs to promote advanced manufacturing. This vibrant sector can build a strong economy; support healthy, middle class communities; dramatically reduce poverty; and develop sustainable solutions to the environmental crisis.

Our results speak for themselves as we gain national support for our vision. Over the past year, CLCR has made several key breakthroughs, upgraded our core staff, and recruited a diverse range of influential partners. We continue to demonstrate our ability to bring together unlikely allies in sustained and effective coalitions. We are now elevating our profile as a national voice in economic and community development policy.

Our inclusive, big-picture approach answers the needs of a country in change. Across the United States, 14 million Americans remain unemployed while over 3 million jobs go unfilled—including as many as 600,000 high-skill, high-pay manufacturing jobs. As you’ll see in this annual report, CLCR is building pathways for youth and communities to lead in all aspects of advanced manufacturing and social change.

I’m convinced this moment holds greater potential for transformative change than any other time in the last century. We are eager for your suggestions, critical concerns, and partnership in building a national manufacturing renaissance.

Dan Swinney
Executive Director
Our Mission

The Center for Labor & Community Research (CLCR) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization working to rediscover, redefine, and rebuild advanced manufacturing in the knowledge economy.

advanced manufacturing
/ædˈvaːnst ˌmænjuˈfæktʃəɹiŋ/

Noun phrase:
1. The design and production of complex, value-added goods (e.g. wind turbines, medical equipment, aerospace technology, and other items requiring specialized knowledge, processes, or relationships).
2. A source of middle-class career opportunities for qualified, highly skilled Americans.
3. The central pillar of U.S. global leadership and competitiveness.
4. A cutting-edge sector that generates wealth, supports healthy communities, drives innovation, and creates widespread benefits for all levels of society.
5. The highest possible fusion of public and private interests.

ECONOMIC Sustainability

Manufacturing remains a vital engine for U.S. economic growth. This widely underestimated industry has led the way in our fragile recovery, adding $1.7 trillion of value to the economy in 2010. Average compensation in manufacturing, including benefits, topped $75,000. Each manufacturing position also supports up to five additional jobs in the economy.

Unfortunately, our manufacturing sector struggles to maintain a highly skilled, flexible workforce. In a recent survey by The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte, 67% of U.S. manufacturers reported a moderate-to-serious skills shortage overall, and nearly 75% said the lack of skilled production workers was impacting their ability to expand operations.

SOCIAL Sustainability

CLCR emphasizes the community development potential of advanced manufacturing. By attracting high-paying, career track jobs, modern industry can lift communities out of poverty and into the middle class. Entry-level advanced manufacturing positions offer multiple pathways for career advancement into skilled production, management, and ownership.

CLCR focuses on low-income communities hard-hit by deindustrialization over the past 30 years—communities like Austin, on Chicago’s West Side. Through programs such as Austin Polytechnical Academy and the Austin Manufacturing Training Center, CLCR provides local residents with in-demand skills to become leaders in advanced manufacturing.

ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability

Green production is just as important as green consumption, if not more important. To preserve a healthy environment, we need engineers, developers, investors, employees, and policymakers leading the way through innovation—not just protests, regulation, and litigation. Protecting the environment is all about what we make, how we make it, and how it’s used.

CLCR encourages U.S. manufacturers to capitalize on multi-billion dollar green market opportunities. The Chicago Green Manufacturing Network initiative will help businesses enter the global wind turbine supply chain, and the Austin Manufacturing Innovation Park will focus on research and development in emerging markets like renewable energy.
BOARD of Directors

Garrick Davis
National Urban League Policy Institute

Cecilia Estolano
Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors LLC

Doug Gamble
UNITE (retired)

Edward Hamburg
Morgan Stanley Private Equity

Michael Locker
Locker Associates Inc.

Rick Mattoon
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Robert Rosenberg
University of Chicago

John Simmons
Strategic Learning Initiatives

Dan Swinney
Center for Labor & Community Research

FINANCIAL Information

CLCR Condensed Statement of Activities for fiscal year ending on June 30, 2011:

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<td>Austin Polytech</td>
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<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>Total net assets</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$1,082,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
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<tr>
<td>$452,771</td>
<td>$1,534,796</td>
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</tbody>
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Our MANAGEMENT and STAFF

Mary Lou Wattman
Chief Operating Officer

Melanie Zech
Chief Financial Officer

Bruce Braker
Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council Director

Erica Swinney
Career & Community Programs Director

Leonard McKinnis, Ph.D.
National Policy Director

Amara Enyia, J.D., Ph.D.
Policy Director

Ingrid Gonçalves
Communications Director

Bill Vogel
Austin Polytechnical Academy Industrial Coordinator

Norwin Merens
Austin Polytechnical Academy Industrial Coordinator

Pablo Varela
Austin Polytechnical Academy Machining Instructor

Joyce Connors
Administrative Services Manager

Brett Swinney
Program Technical Assistant

Lucy Deleon-Scott
Austin Polytechnical Academy Program Assistant

Torres Hughes
Youth Organizer
CLCR’s Manufacturing Renaissance Council (MRC) model of economic and community development unites stakeholders at all levels of society—including business, labor, government, education, and community—in support of advanced manufacturing.

The economic, social, and environmental benefits of advanced manufacturing reach far beyond the industry itself. Ensuring our advanced manufacturing leadership is the most important policy issue of this decade. As centers for innovation, both the public and private sectors must participate.

The MRC model is local in focus. MRC partners strengthen their regional advanced manufacturing economies by operating autonomous programs in areas like secondary education, post-secondary education, sector services, and market diversification.

**SECONDARY Education**

The MRC model’s secondary education component is the Polytechnical model, which follows international best practices for college and career preparation. Polytechnical academies partner with employers to connect students with work experience and industry certification opportunities while still in high school.

**POST-SECONDARY Education**

World class educational systems are an essential prerequisite to advanced manufacturing leadership. The MRC model helps our society work together to improve American workforce development and higher education, with particular attention to community colleges and industry credentialing programs.

**SECTOR Services**

The MRC model includes a sector-focused Manufacturing Workforce and Consulting Center (MWCC) component to assist manufacturers with human resources services and business development guidance. MWCCs also serve the interests of the general population by linking job seekers with training and employment opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

**MARKET Diversification**

MRCs help connect local manufacturers with business opportunities in worldwide emerging markets. CLCR believes local and state governments should play a role in helping manufacturers—particularly smaller, privately-held companies—to stimulate job creation and growth by upgrading their capacity to tap into lucrative, specialized markets.

Laystrom Manufacturing CEO Bob Laystrom was so impressed with Marquiese Booker’s summer job performance, he hired the Austin Polytech grad for a full-time quality control position—with tuition assistance to help Marquiese continue his education at Triton College.
The Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council (CMRC) continues to demonstrate the power of the MRC model by promoting advanced manufacturing and leading innovative programs in the Chicago region.

In 2011, the Chicago MRC distributed Department of Defense Small Business Innovation Research grant opportunities to nine Chicago area companies, and co-sponsored a supply chain conference with the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center.

Two Chicago MRC Commitments to America were represented at the Clinton Global Initiative summit in June 2011: doubling the annual rate of industry-recognized NIMS certifications earned in Illinois by 2013, and preparing a development plan for the Austin Manufacturing Innovation Park in partnership with Austin Coming Together.

Since its establishment in 2005, the Chicago MRC has worked with the City Colleges of Chicago to improve post-secondary manufacturing degree and credentialing programs by aligning curricula with industry needs and connecting students with high-quality careers in manufacturing.

The Chicago MRC has launched a number of programs in the Austin neighborhood—a once-vibrant industrial community hit hard by deindustrialization—including the Austin Manufacturing Training Center to help local adults earn NIMS credentials and land career track jobs.

This year, a Workforce Investment Act Workforce Center contract was awarded to the City of Chicago’s ManufacturingWorks program, spearheaded by the Chicago MRC as a MWCC pilot program. ManufacturingWorks estimates having saved Chicago manufacturers over $1,000 hours in human resources time and approximately $5 million in direct hiring costs.

Austin Polytechnical Academy (APA) is a public high school on Chicago’s West Side that prepares students for college and leadership in advanced manufacturing.

The pilot program for the Polytechnical model, and the Chicago MRC’s flagship initiative, Austin Polytech works with over 65 local manufacturers and universities to expose students to a wide range of manufacturing careers.

Austin Polytech’s internationally recognized career program connects students with a rigorous college-prep and pre-engineering curriculum, as well as work-based learning experiences like job shadowing, mentoring, professional machining certifications, and paid internships.

Founded in 2007, Austin Polytech represents a partnership between Chicago Public Schools, local manufacturers, the Chicago Teachers Union, and the Austin community.

During their 2011 summer break, five APA students ran an on-campus manufacturing business with help from machining instructor Pablo Varela. The students produced over 700 fully functional aluminum whistles to fill orders from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and SME Education Foundation.

This year, a Workforce Investment Act Workforce Center contract was awarded to the City of Chicago’s ManufacturingWorks program, spearheaded by the Chicago MRC as a MWCC pilot program. ManufacturingWorks estimates having saved Chicago manufacturers over $1,000 hours in human resources time and approximately $5 million in direct hiring costs.

“Hearing and reading about Austin Polytech and the Chicago MRC is one thing. Seeing the school and meeting the APA teachers, students, and partners is truly inspirational.”

GARY YEE, President, Oakland Unified School District Board of Education
Inspired by the CMRC, a team of San Francisco area leaders created the Bay Area Manufacturing Renaissance Council (BAMRC)—the first replication of the Manufacturing Renaissance Council model.

The Bay Area MRC is currently focused on various educational initiatives in secondary and post-secondary education in the East Bay. Inspired by Austin Polytech, the Bay Area MRC is taking steps toward implementing a similar career program at McClymonds High School in Oakland.

The Bay Area MRC also has allocated $10,000 for an initiative to align local community colleges with the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System, and provide assistance to Laney College in assessing and improving their manufacturing programs.

This new MRC is well positioned to improve educational attainment in the Bay Area, thanks to steering committee members like Linda Collins of the Career Ladders Project, an organization helping disadvantaged youth succeed in California Community Colleges, and Gary Yee, president of the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education.

In September, the Chicago MRC facilitated a day-long event sponsored by the British Embassy and Consulate-General. A delegation of U.K. leaders traveled to Chicago to learn how the MRC model and public-private partnerships help support advanced manufacturing.

“The CMRC’s partnership-based approach to manufacturing development in Chicago could serve as a model for businesses in the U.K. to improve their workforce, innovation, and supply chains,” said Colette Buscemi, Head of Trade and Investment-Midwest, British Consulate-General, Chicago.

CLCR also hosted an Australian delegation including Aboriginal elders Bennett Walker and Paul Briggs, Peter Botsman of the Indigenous Stock Exchange, and a representative of the Australian Education Union.

Inspired by Dan Swinney’s presentation in Australia in April, the visit was a first step toward replicating and adapting the MRC approach in Australia, including Polytechnical schools.

“The idea that we are exploring is of an Aboriginal young person at the top of the world manufacturing system making things and learning things that are unique,” Mr. Briggs said.

Delegations from Oakland, California; South Bend, Indiana; and Pontiac, Michigan also traveled to Chicago this year to learn about the Chicago MRC and Austin Polytech.
An all-star team of partners has launched the National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign (NMRC), a diverse coalition united under four guiding principles:

1. The United States must be the global leader in advanced manufacturing.
2. The NMRC’s competitive advantage is a strategic partnership of business, labor, government, education, and community.
3. A world-class educational system is a fundamental requirement for a strong advanced manufacturing sector.
4. A strong advanced manufacturing sector builds communities and a broad middle class, and can drastically reduce poverty.

**NMRC Leadership Team**

- **Garrick Davis**
  National Urban League Policy Institute
- **Emily Stover DeRocco**
  The Manufacturing Institute
- **Mike Egan**
  California Teachers Association
- **Steve Mandes**
  National Institute for Metalworking Skills
- **Dan Swinney**
  Center for Labor & Community Research

Beyond promoting advanced manufacturing at the national level, the NMRC also acts as an umbrella structure for regional MRCs.

Under the NMRC’s leadership, local MRC partners manage their own autonomous programs based on research into their region’s needs. The NMRC aims to establish MRC partnerships in cities and regions across the United States.

The NMRC also promotes public and private investment in the U.S. advanced manufacturing sector, including national use of the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System and the Polytechnical model of secondary education.
On October 26, 2011, the National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign (NMRC) hosted a bipartisan congressional policy briefing in cooperation with U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Don Manzullo.

Over 50 congressional staff members and top-level Washington officials attended the briefing, entitled “Jobs that Build the Economy: How Advanced Manufacturing Creates Jobs for Americans and Supports U.S. Global Competitiveness.” The program featured an impressive lineup of speakers representing business, labor, government, education, and communities.

Plans are underway for a second briefing with the U.S. Senate, as well as a hearing with the House Manufacturing Caucus. Plans also are underway for a symposium presenting the Polytechnical model of contextual education to faculty and students at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Robert Schwartz
Harvard Graduate School of Education

“The Manufacturing Renaissance Council itself and [Austin Polytech] really do provide exemplars for where I think we as a country need to move.”

Robert Atkinson, Ph.D.
Innovation and IT Foundation

“When we make the case for manufacturing, it can’t be the case that it is for a few individuals or a few communities. It is central to the entire economic health of America.”

Steven Kersten
WaterSaver Faucet Company

“I’d be happy to have [our three APA interns] come work for us permanently... I’m very optimistic about the future of [APA]. I think it will help us staff our company with bright, capable, and motivated people.”

Marc Morial
National Urban League

“I want to commit the National Urban League and our affiliate movement to working closely with this alliance, because... deindustrialization has negatively affected urban communities.”

Jorge Ramirez
Chicago Federation of Labor

“The [CFL] and our affiliates are proud to be at the center of such an innovative partnership... For us this isn’t an issue of union or non-union... The [Chicago MRC] is a model that has been successful.”

Torres Hughes
Austin Polytechnical Academy

“Through all the experiences... I’ve had, I can see myself owning a manufacturing company someday. I know my friends who go to other high schools don’t have the opportunities I’ve had at Austin Polytech.”
CHICAGO MRC Co-Chairs

Rita Athas  
World Business Chicago

Joe Pijanowski  
International Association of Machinists Local 126

David Hanson  
City Colleges of Chicago

Jorge Ramirez  
Chicago Federation of Labor

Steven Kersten  
WaterSaver Faucet Company

BAY AREA MRC Steering Committee

Linda Collins  
Career Ladders Project

Mike Egan  
California Teachers Association

Karen Engel  
East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Tim Rainey  
California Federation of Labor

Jack Stewart  
California Manufacturers & Technology Association

Gary Yee  
Oakland Unified School District Board

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Surdna Foundation  

Field Foundation of Illinois  
Irving Harris Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  

CLCR has attracted national and international interest with programs connecting advanced manufacturers—like Arrow Gear, pictured—with qualified interns and employees. By exposing secondary and post-secondary students to a wide range of manufacturing careers, CLCR aims to empower more Americans to succeed in high quality, middle class careers. A sophisticated, highly skilled workforce also is critical to U.S. leadership in advanced manufacturing.
Working to
REDISCOVER, REDEFINE, AND REBUILD ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
in the Knowledge Economy

For more information, please contact us at:

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Chicago, Illinois 60647
P: 773.278.5418
F: 773.278.5918
info@clcr.org

CLCR staff and APA student Torres Hughes traveled to Washington, DC for the National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign’s congressional policy briefing on advanced manufacturing and education strategy.