Business Futures Council
Inaugural Symposium

The Future of 21st Century Manufacturing Jobs in Middle America

The role of manufacturing jobs underwent major changes in the last part of the 20th century. Many factory jobs staffed by middle to low skilled workers went to countries where wage rates were lower than the United States. At the same time, the complexity of products increased, the requirement for quality became more pronounced, and firms required reduced product cycle times. As a result of these changes, more highly skilled global workers who are able to fulfill products to a global competitive market place are needed.

If we in the United States do not start training our workforce (specifically technical professionals, business managers and leaders) to effectively address these global competitive needs we will be losing more and more jobs to other countries.

The Business Futures Council, established within the School of Business Administration at Oakland University, has been formed to discuss issues that surround this transformation of manufacturing jobs.

During its inaugural symposium the Business Futures Council will discuss:

- Is there a role for manufacturing in Middle America?
- What is the nature of the jobs that will exist?
- What skills and education will entry level and existing manufacturing employees need?
- What role should our education institutions serve in preparing current and future employees?

Join Us:

April 23, 2008
1-4 p.m.
Oakland Center
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