Don't Miss 59th Annual Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner – Registration Deadline Is Today, April 3

Don’t miss the 59th Annual State Chamber/AIA Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner April 18. Events include a breakfast briefing at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, meetings with the Arkansas Senate and House delegation and the Congressional Dinner & Reception at Hill Country BBQ. The registration deadline is today, April 3rd.

To register or for more information, click here.

Column: Business Leaders “Bullish on the U.S. Economy”

In a column for The New York Post, Fox Business Senior Correspondent Charles Gasparino wrote that America’s business owners are “methodically hiring new workers and seeing plenty of green in their future.”

Read more here.

Labor Department: Jobless Claims Fall to Lowest Level Since 1973

MarketWatch reports that the Labor Department announced that “the rate of layoffs in the U.S. fell again in late March and dropped to the lowest level since 1973,” adding that “initial U.S. jobless claims declined by 12,000 to 215,000 in the seven days ended March 24.”

Read more here.

Companies Using Tax Cuts to
Reinvest in Workforce

Business Insider cited approximately 15 companies that are using their savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to reinvest in the workforce.

Read more here.

Manufacturers Have “High Level of Optimism” Thanks to Tax Reform

The Atlanta Business Chronicle reports that because they are "encouraged by changes in tax laws, including new tax depreciation rules, manufacturers have a high level of optimism."

Read more here.

Manufacturing Institute’s Skills Gap Study Cited in Reports Highlighting Workforce Challenges

In a column for U.S. News & World Report, FUSE Core Executive Fellow Parker Thomas writes that while "every company grapples with the challenge of recruiting talent," nevertheless "the need is especially dire in advanced manufacturing."

Read more here.

NAM’s Eisenberg: Manufacturers Need “Certainty, Consistency, Predictability” in Permitting Processes

Bloomberg Government reports that "shifting the burden of environmental protection to states could speed approvals of air and water permits that businesses need to operate, as the EPA tries to halve its backlog of overdue decisions."

Read more here.

Report: Employer Solutions to Address “Skills Gap” A “Key Trend” for HR Executives

GSA Business writes about a report from HR Dive on trends affecting HR executives this year, stating that "how employers will continue to attack the skills gap problem will remain a key trend to watch in
JD Power, LMC Automotive: U.S. Auto Sales Rose 0.4% Year-On-Year in March

Reuters reports that JD Power and LMC Automotive recently announced that "U.S. auto sales in March likely rose 0.4 percent from the same month in 2017, breaking a three-month streak of falling sales due to an extra selling weekend versus the previous year."

Read more here.

Poll: President Trump Benefiting from Economic Policies

The AP reports that results of a new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research show that President Trump’s approval rating has risen 7 points since February.

Read more here.

Commerce Department: Factory Goods Orders Rose in February at Highest Rate in 8 Months

The AP reported that "U.S. orders for long-lasting manufactured goods rebounded in February, reversing a drop in January, to rise at the fastest pace since June."

Read more here.

White House Cites NAM’s Support for Infrastructure Investment

In a press release, the White House announced comments from congressional and industry leaders in response to President Trump’s recent announcement of a new infrastructure investment
Commerce Department: U.S. Economy Grew At 2.9% Rate in Fourth Quarter, Beating Economists’ Expectations

The AP reports that the Commerce Department said that "the U.S. economy expanded at a rate of 2.9 percent in the fourth quarter," much better than Wall Street analysts expected.

Read more here.

House Ways & Means Committee Cites NAM Support for Keeping ISDS in NAFTA

The House Committee on Ways and Means cites a letter from Congressional Republicans to U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer "calling on USTR to maintain high-standard investment protection in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)."

Read more here.