



**Corporate and Institutional Roundtable at the MT Series SOUTHEAST
Greenville, S.C.
Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

8:30 – 9 a.m.

Welcome & Coffee

Each attendee will give a 1–2-minute introduction, including their organization, workforce challenges or goals, and what they hope to gain from the day.

9 – 10 a.m.

Bridging the Gap: Aligning Academic Outcomes with Industry Needs

This session unites industry and academic leaders to address the skills gap, align education with workforce needs, and explore strategies to better prepare students for modern manufacturing.

10:30 a.m. – Noon

MT Series SOUTHEAST Keynote Speaker, SME Theater

Discussion of Primary Concerns of US Manufacturers and the Impact of Technology

This panel starts with the core concerns of manufacturing—competitiveness, growth, and productivity amid the skills gap—before exploring how technologies like automation, robotics, training, machining, monitoring, software, and AI can provide solutions. Industry leaders will share perspectives from both firsthand experience and broad industry insight.

12:15 – 1 p.m.

Networking Lunch & Industry Exchange with Students

A casual networking lunch designed to spark conversation and connection. Students will engage directly with manufacturing leaders, while corporate and academic guests continue discussions, share insights, and explore collaboration. Come hungry for both food and fresh perspectives.

1 – 2 p.m.

Stronger Together: Connecting Students, Educators & Industry for the Future of Manufacturing

Joint session with the Bright Minds College Experience students

This session brings together Bright Minds students and Roundtable attendees for a dynamic conversation on the future of manufacturing careers. Through panels and dialogue, students gain real-world insights, educators hear employers' skill needs, and industry leaders connect with the next generation of talent.

2 – 2:30 p.m.

Day Wrap-Up, Thank You & Next Steps

2:30 – 5 p.m.

Expo Hall Exploration

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Student Roundtable Discussions & Focus Group

Optional Session with the Bright Minds College Experience Group

An optional, interactive session to hear students' experiences, perspectives, and ideas on strengthening the connection between education and industry. Topics include what excites students about manufacturing, the challenges they face, and the support they need to thrive.