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MANUFACTURING NEWS



TODAY'S INFORMATION FOR
BUSY PROFESSIONALS

from

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What in the World is a Virtual Assistant and Why Do You Need One?

A Virtual Assistant is a small-business owner who works remotely via a cloud-based platform and can perform many of the same tasks an in-house Administrative Assistant can do. She performs tasks "as needed" for specific tasks and projects. However, because of this, companies do not have the added costs of an office space, full- or part-time compensation, or benefits and taxes to worry about. All of those aspects are taken care of by the Virtual Assistant, who is considered an independent contractor if hired.



Current Manufacturing News

E-Commerce Is Becoming A Driving Factor In Manufacturing

E-commerce is a force of nature that is not likely to slow down anytime soon. Customers want everything now (and would have preferred it yesterday if at all possible), and the manufacturing industry, supply chains, and distribution centers are struggling to keep up. But there is good news.

Due to several ongoing factors, economic growth in the manufacturing industry could exponentially explode for everyone involved:

1. Everyone knows about the recent tax cuts that went into effect. As a result, we have begun to see that many companies

all
over
the
country
are
gaining
the
ability
to
put
previously
unavailable
monies
into
their
establishments,
workforce,
and
communities.

2. Industrial
and
supply
chain
companies
are
expected
to
continue
to
invest
in
their
real
estate
portfolios.

3. This
investment
will
allow
companies
to
get
closer
to
their
customer

base,
especially
with
e-
commerce
continuing
to
set
records
year
after
year.
And
finally,

4. Speed,
urgency,
and
reverse
logistics
(which
is
driving
a
digital
transformation
previously
not
seen
before)
is
the
motivating
factor
here,
and
those
companies
that
balk
at
updating
current
systems
are
likely
going

to
be
left
in
the
dust
behind
their
competitors.



Supply Chain Management News

Supply Chain Management, Technology, and An Aging Workforce

It's hard to admit, but we're all getting older. And as we do so, we find that technology is screaming along faster than we can comprehend. Who would have thought that we'd be this far twenty years ago? That machines – and computers – would be something we would use daily and often find ourselves lost if we're without them.

But there is a two-sided aspect to technology and today's workforce – not only is digital technology challenging to keep up with at times but not everyone who is currently in the workforce is tech savvy. And added to that is there are going to be many baby boomers who will be retiring soon – if they haven't started already. What does this mean for you?

Regardless of how some may view Millennials and their work ethics, they are the ones we need to rely on to get these jobs done. The problem? They aren't familiar with how things are done and have a difficult time understanding why things aren't more straightforward. If a computer can do it, why do companies need them? If technology is the "all-encompassing answer" companies are going for to create a more significant bottom line, what about the actual people required in other areas?

What we need is the ability to train these younger folks in today's technology (or instead, the more specific aspects, as most younger people use technology daily in some form). We need to get them in these jobs and make them understand the importance of the people behind the computers and machines and that business doesn't run just on microchips and robots. It requires actual humans, and until they figure this out, there is going to be a lack of qualified people available for these positions.



Quote of the Day

In the business world, everyone is paid in two coins: cash and experience. Take the experience first; the cash will come later.

- *Harold Geneen*

Upcoming Events



Year of the Dog: 2/11/18 - 2/17/18

President's Day Week: 2/18/18 - 2/24/18

Opening Week: 2/25/18 - 3/3/18

February Holidays



- 2 - Wear Red Day
- 9 - Winter Olympics Begin
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 16 - Chinese New Year – Year of the Dog
- 19 - President's Day
- Heart Disease Awareness Month**



Interested in Learning More?

I would love to hear your thoughts on exactly what you are looking for in a Virtual Assistant. Please complete this survey so I can obtain a feel for what your company needs.

[What Are You Looking For In A Virtual Assistant?](#)

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