

SUMMER TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTE 2017:

Exponential Technical Education: How the Exponential Economy Will Change Everything in the Next 10 Years

We are living in an “Exponential Economy”. Products in consumer electronics, computers, medical equipment, and telecommunications markets are doubling in price performance every 12 to 18 months.

The little-known truth is that this rate of change doesn’t just affect high tech markets – it affects everything – including how we prepare students and learners for rapidly changing career pathways. This will perhaps be the most evident in the transportation sector, where advances in alternative power systems and in self-driving vehicles could revolutionize an entire industry.

What’s more, in a world where every piece of technology is connected, where employers value not just what a candidate can do but what they know, and where the technology and curriculum now available to educate our students is like nothing we have seen before there is no more exciting time in the history of technical education than today.

In this fascinating and entertaining presentation, Matt Kirchner provides enlightening observations about the Exponential Economy, and then presents exciting ways that employers and educators are capitalizing on the “Exponential Economy” to drive results.

Keynote Speaker: Matt Kirchner



Matt Kirchner (pronounced “KirK-ner”) serves as President of world-class curriculum, eLearning and training equipment distributor LAB Midwest, a company that he and his ownership group acquired in 2015. LAB Midwest is headquartered in Wisconsin and maintains offices across its seven-state territory. Kirchner firmly believes that the American Dream can only be perpetuated by a strong U.S. Industrial and Manufacturing sector and he has dedicated his career to ensuring that industrial employers have the skilled workforces they will need to compete in the world of Advanced Manufacturing.

For seven years prior to his current role Kirchner served as the Chief Executive of American Finishing Resources, LLC (AFR), the largest provider of Industrial Coatings Removal and Paint Fixture and Hanger Design and Fabrication in the U.S. In 2014, he spearheaded his ownership group’s sale of AFR to DuBois Chemicals.

Kirchner’s background also includes 10 years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of ABQC Corporation, a 250,000-square foot custom coating operation located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in the mid-1990’s he completed the turnaround of Innovative Control Systems, Inc. a Wisconsin corporation that develops and manufactures high-tech security and asset protection systems for healthcare facilities.

He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant, and serves on the boards of several corporations and non-profit organizations. He is a graduate of Marquette University.

In addition to his role with LAB Midwest, Kirchner is President of Profit360, LLC, a Midwest provider of management advisory services, and speaks frequently on topics of interest to American manufacturers and those who serve them. He authors the monthly leadership columns appearing in Products Finishing and Production Machining magazines.