



AL STIMAC

*Chairman, Global Talent Competitiveness Council,
Workforce Florida Board of Directors
Owner & President, Metal Essence Inc.*

A self-made industrial leader, Al Stimac is the personification both of entrepreneurial spirit and of the American Dream, and his professional career has been accompanied by an outstanding record of service in civic and charitable efforts as well as with professional boards and associations.

Mr. Stimac moved with his family to Rochester, New York, in 1970, and at the age of 16 began an apprenticeship in precision sheet-metalworking with the Stromberg-Carlson division of General Dynamics. He would remain associated with that company and its successors for some 25 years, advancing through a series of increasingly demanding management positions.

After earning his Journeyman certification in 1976, Stimac, a union shop steward at the Rochester plant, was named the youngest member of the Executive Board of the AFL-CIO. Just a year later – 1977 – Stimac was given the opportunity to manage the re-location of the Rochester facility to Lake Mary, Florida, and he was named Manager of the General Fabrication Department.

In the early 1980's, the company underwent a series of mergers and acquisitions, and Stimac was named Director of Manufacturing for Plessy Telecommunications, a UK high tech company that had acquired the Lake Mary facility. Ownership eventually went to Siemens AG, and the plant was used to produce digital central office equipment for telephone companies, the facility was eventually acquired by Comtel Metals, and Stimac – now Vice President and General Manager of the Comtel plant – was tasked with and oversaw the building of a new state-of-the-art precision metals plant at the Lake Mary site.

In 1986, Mr. Stimac, concerned about the need for Florida manufacturers having to acquire precision machining capacity from out of state,. He left Com-Tel in 1995 to

concentrate on growing his own business – Metal Essence Inc. – which rapidly expanded to a workforce of over 80. Mr. Stimac then purchased land and a building in Sanford on Central Park Place at 35,000-square feet, which more than tripled the capacity of Metal Essence.

The company specialized in production of high volume; high tech parts used in the automotive, aerospace and electronics industries. Metal Essence was successful in leveraging technology to enable the company to be an effective competitor in the global marketplace. In 2006, Stimac decided to put his talent to other use and started a consulting business, Machining Solutions, LLC. He now travels to other machine shops and increases their productivity, training and machine tool issues while reducing overall costs by using a unique systematic engineering approach. These improvements help to retain manufacturing sources not only in Florida but in the United States.

Al Stimac has had a career-long record of giving back, both to the community and to the manufacturing industry. A past member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Central Florida, Stimac chaired the annual campaign in 1986, raising what was then a record amount for the program. Al has been among the most ardent supporters of workforce development in Florida, having been appointed to the Workforce Florida Board of Directors in July 2008 and reappointed in August 2011. He has served as President of the Board of the Manufacturing Association of Central Florida (MACF) and continues to serve as a board member.

Over the years, he has been tireless in his efforts to explain the benefits of a manufacturing-based economy to both state and Federal legislators, regulators, chambers of commerce and other business interests. Mr. Stimac champions the notion that manufacturing helps maintain a diverse economy; creates and sustains high-paying jobs; promotes investment in capital equipment, research and development; and generally helps build and maintain a superb quality of life for those employed in the industry and for the larger community from which they purchase goods and services. In order to accomplish these goals he also sits as the President for the Manufactures Association of Florida, and as a board member of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.