



Dear IFMA Colleagues and MILC Members,

As the new Manufacturing, Industrial and Logistics Council President, I would like to introduce myself and let you know I am eager to make our council stronger than ever. Today, the industrial market is back and we can be a big part of making it even stronger through good FM practices and networking.

I thought I would tell you a little about myself so you will get to know who I am. I live and work in the Detroit area surrounded by automotive manufacturing. My career started by attending Western Michigan University with a degree in Industrial engineering and a minor in architecture and construction management. I later earned my facility management degree from the BOMI institute. Leaving college, I worked for an A/E firm as an industrial engineer, followed by moving on to General Motors for 15 years managing many industrial project and facilities, then working for two large national construction firms and I am now director of industrial operations and business development for FTCH Engineering headquartered in Grand Rapids Michigan.

Having been in the industrial arena my whole life doing design, construction and facilities management, I have a true understanding of the life of our MILC members. Whether it's a project put on our laps that needs to be done tomorrow, or having to plan maintenance with depleting staff, our responsibilities are never ending. However, having been in the design, construction and management sectors, I have always found management to be my favorite. There is no better way to grow than to understand and learn how things work. A facility manger gets that firsthand experience to see and understand the backbone of many operations and processes. It is this knowledge that makes us so valuable to our firms and companies although it may not always appear that way. But we can never stop learning. Complacency is the root of all evil. We must continue to challenge ourselves every day to stay on top of the ever changing environment we live in. I believe manufacturing carries some of the greatest competition, which in turn brings some of the greatest innovation. That innovation is the change that we must keep up with in our careers.

As I enter into the 2016/17 fiscal year, I look to bring even more value to our chapter. With continued learning through our webinars and educational opportunities, I also will work to bring more resources to our council so we have a bank of resources available right at our fingertips in times of need. Please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, thoughts, or questions.

I look forward to serving you in the coming year,

*Keith Vandebussche, MILC Council President*