

Debra J. Volzer, Ph.D.

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Dr. Deb Volzer joined SME in 2022 and currently serves as vice president of workforce development, where she leads the organization's national strategy to close the manufacturing skills gap and expand economic opportunity through education, government collaboration, and public-private partnerships. She is responsible for designing and launching the Manufacturing Imperative – Workforce Pipeline Challenge, a national program with local implementation in 17 states. With over 15 years of experience collaborating with government agencies at various levels, Dr. Volzer aligns workforce needs across sectors, and I have spent more than 25 years working with higher education to develop relevant programming that serves historically resilient populations.