

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

4th STEP Ahead Awards Recognize Women for Excellence in Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Institute Will Honor 130 Women with STEP Ahead Awards

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2016: The Manufacturing Institute announced they will award [130 women](#) with the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Ahead Award. The STEP Ahead Awards honor women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry, from the factory-floor to the C suite.

“These 130 women are the faces of exciting careers in manufacturing,” said Jennifer McNelly, executive director, The Manufacturing Institute. “We chose to honor these women because they each made significant achievements in manufacturing through positive impact on their company and the industry as a whole.”

“Congratulations to these outstanding leaders. Thanks to their work, not only are their companies creating opportunity, but they are leading an innovation revolution—a revolution that will win us jobs, raise standards of living and restore our mantle of leadership around the world. This revolution is strengthened by the diversity in the manufacturing industry. And through the work of these accomplished leaders, we are demonstrating to the country that modern manufacturing offers a range of exciting and rewarding career paths,” said Jay Timmons, president and CEO, National Association of Manufacturers.

The STEP Ahead Awards are part of the larger STEP Ahead initiative, launched to examine and promote the role of women in the manufacturing industry through recognition, research, and leadership for attracting, advancing, and retaining strong female talent.

A recent survey from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute found that 80 percent of American manufacturing companies have a moderate to severe shortage of available, qualified workers, and less than a third of the manufacturing workforce are women. Closing the skills gap includes closing the gender gap.

On April 21, The Manufacturing Institute will recognize 130 recipients of the STEP Ahead Awards at a reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Ahead Awards program will highlight each Honoree’s story, including their leadership and accomplishments in manufacturing.

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About The Manufacturing Institute

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501(c)(3) affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. As a non-partisan organization, the Institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation's manufacturers. The Institute is the authority on the attraction, qualification and development of world-class manufacturing talent. For more information, please visit

www.themanufacturinginstitute.org.

733 10th Street, NW, Suite 700 • Washington, D.C. 20001

NAMES/COMPANIES of HONOREES

**Asterisk indicates an Emerging Leader*

**MANUFACTURING
Institute**

Miranda Aarons
AGCO Corporation

Tiffany Chan*
Nomiku

Amelia Folkins*
GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Sassa Akervall
Akervall Technologies Inc.

Jaclyn Clark*
AGCO Corporation

Rebecca Forbes*
BWX Technologies, Inc.

Marissa Badenhorst
Chevron Corporation

Aundria Cohen*
Metal Essence and
Machining Training
Solutions

Janie Fowler
Faurecia

Chelsea Becker*
Baldor, ABB Group

Melissa Coon
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company

Carol "Lynn" Fox
Baker Hughes
Incorporated

Megan Benadum*
Alcoa Inc.

Jen Crapisi
Abbott

Lori Frost
IPAK, Inc.

Danielle Berndt*
Alcoa Inc.

Leanne Cunningham
Brown-Forman
Corporation

Regan Gallo
Saint-Gobain Corporation
and CertainTeed
Corporation

Victoria Biedenstein
The Dow Chemical
Company

Denise DeLaune
The Dow Chemical
Company

Jan Gansheimer
Honda of America
Manufacturing

Teri Blumenthal
Rockwell Automation

Lisa Dolan
ALOM

Heather Gawne
Stella-Jones Corporation

Stacey Brown
American Airlines

Linda Ehler
Hartwig Inc.

Daniela Gonzalez*
Baker Hughes
Incorporated

Erin Buchanan
Toyota Motor Engineering
and Manufacturing, NA

Eileen Eick
Vermeer Corporation

Pierrette Gorman
Sandia National
Laboratories

Cheryl Bush
Kennametal Inc.

Paulette Enfante
Phoenix Mecano Inc.

Dawn Grove
Karsten Manufacturing
Corporation

Christen Campbell*
BASF Corporation

Lisa Faris
Covestro LLC

Brigot Gunter
Johnson & Johnson Vision
Care Inc.

Jezabel Cardenas*
Rockwell Automation

Catherine Farris
Newport News
Shipbuilding

Amy Haigler
The Procter & Gamble
Company

Shelley Ryan Carlson
Danfoss

Julianne Fatula*
Covestro LLC

Kenyana Ceasar*
Johnson & Johnson
Vision Care Inc.

Jennifer Hamilton
Mitsubishi Hitachi Power
Systems Americas, Inc.

Jenni Hanna
Whirlpool Corporation

Susan Hershelman
Lord Corporation

Lisa Hirsh
Accurate Box Company

Loria Holden
Mitsubishi Hitachi Power
Systems Americas, Inc.

Janette Hostettler
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing Indiana
Inc.

Grace Hsia*
Warmilu

Tonya Hutchison*
Merck & Co., Inc.

Becky Iaconis
Exxel Outdoors, LLC

Zoe Jin
Johnson Controls Power
Solutions

Toni Jones
Jabil Circuit, Inc.

Jodi Keller
United Scrap Metal, Inc.

Randi Kelley
PTC Inc.

Casey Kerrigan
OESH Shoes

Paula Kilrain
Ball Corporation

Laurn King*
Eaton Corporation

Anna Klein*
Goodyear Tire and Rubber
Company

Staci Kroon
Eaton Corporation

Marcia Kull
Volvo Penta of the
Americas

Debra Leach
GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Hannah Lenoce*
Marion Manufacturing
Company

Lori Lents
Solar Turbines
Incorporated

Keira Lombardo
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Addie Marie Lordemann*
3M Company

Julie Lucas
General Motors

Robin Luedtke
MillerCoors LLC

Janeen Lyle
The Procter & Gamble
Company

Kathy Magee
Lancer Corporation

Barbara Manzi
Manzi Metals

Jeanenne "Jd" Marhevko
Accuride Corporation

LaRuthie Holder Mason
Shaw Industries Group Inc.

Marcy McClanahan
Ingersoll Rand

**Nicole McGlone-
Santistevan**
BASF Corporation

Lori Melbostad
Premier Marine, Inc.

JoAnn Mitchell
Sandvik Coromant
Company

Lisa Mondello
SRC, Inc.

Heather Mosier
Cooper Tire & Rubber
Company

**Pamela Nielsen-
Fernandez**
Sealed Air Corporation

Tara Obrist
Behlen Mfg. Co.
Transportation

Sarah Olson
Covestro LLC

Barbara Parkerson
Johnson & Johnson Vision
Care Inc.

DeAnna Patterson*
Toyota Motor Engineering
and Manufacturing, NA

Marion Pender
ESCO Corporation

Genoveva Perez
ACE Clearwater
Enterprises

Michelle Piening
Modine Manufacturing
Company

Nadine Powell*
Buffalo Manufacturing
Works

Stacy Putman
INEOS Olefins & Polymers
USA

Katelyn Riha*
Goodyear Tire and Rubber
Company

Aleida Rios
BP America, Inc.

Krista Roberts
Noven Pharmaceuticals,
Inc.

Tchernavia Rocker
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company

Elizabeth Rolinski
Johnson Controls Power
Solutions

Tina Rudinski*
Lord Corporation

Shari Ruelas
Chevron Corporation

Samantha Ruof*
The Procter & Gamble
Company

Aditi Saran
Goodyear Tire and Rubber
Company

Kim Seijo
Shaw Industries Group Inc.

Nishi Shah*
The Dow Chemical
Company

Rupa Shanmugam
SoPark Corporation

Jenna Shaw*
Medtronic

Jan Shumate
Eastman Chemical
Company

Megan Sias*
The Dow Chemical
Company

Gem Skinner
Polytron, Inc.

Elisabeth Smith
Acutec Precision
Machining Inc.

Jennifer Snow-Boscolo
Terex Aerial Work
Platforms

Tamara Somerville
Posi Lock Puller, Inc.

Kristy Spackey
Owens-Illinois, Inc.

Renee Story
GE Appliances

Leslie Suffredini
Alcoa Inc.

Erika Swartz*
Shaw Industries Group Inc.

Beth Takemoto*
John Deere Harvester
Works

Kristi Thoman
John Deere

Tara Tibbs
Eli Lilly and Company

Beth Tucker
AGCO Corporation

Natalie Vanderspiegel
Solar Turbines
Incorporated

Amanda Varricchio
Pratt & Whitney

Gina Vassallo
Caterpillar Inc.

Lisa Viazanko
Faurecia

Mary Waldo
CoLinx, LLC

Susan Walsh
Pratt & Whitney

Anna Welch
Baker Hughes
Incorporated

Jennifer Wick
Caterpillar Inc.

Kristen Widunas
Jabil Circuit, Inc.

Nichole Williams*
Cooper Tire & Rubber
Company



MANUFACTURING
Institute

Amanda Wilson
Medtronic

Jennifer Wipf
Merck & Co., Inc.

Valerie J. Young
3M Company

Claire Yu
USG Corporation