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The Manufacturing Institute Will Honor 130 Women with the STEP Ahead Award

Sixth-Annual STEP Ahead Awards Recognize Women for Excellence in Manufacturing

Washington, D.C. – The Manufacturing Institute announced today that it will recognize 130 women with the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Ahead Award at a Washington, D.C., ceremony on April 10.

The Manufacturing Institute, the authority on world-class manufacturing talent, launched the STEP Ahead initiative in 2012 to bolster manufacturing’s attractiveness to women and to help improve the perception of careers in the industry among younger generations. The Institute champions diversity and works to empower women leaders. Since 2013, it has annually awarded the STEP Ahead Award to honor women who demonstrate excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry, from the factory floor to the C-suite. This year, the Institute will recognize 100 Honorees and 30 Emerging Leaders, a category that represents women under the age of 30 who have demonstrated leadership early in their careers, with the STEP Ahead Award at a gala in Washington, D.C.

STEP Ahead Award winners come from across the United States and make a pledge to both promote the opportunities for and importance of women in manufacturing and continue to make an impact in their companies and communities through their role as manufacturers. The STEP Ahead Awards program will highlight each honoree’s story, including her unique achievements in manufacturing.

“These inspirational women have stepped up as leaders in our industry, building the future of manufacturing and our country. They set a powerful example as we seek to bring more people, especially women, into modern manufacturing. Manufacturers have an urgent need for talented new workers to join us, and we have rewarding, well-paying careers to offer. Women are under-represented in the industry, so there’s an incredible opportunity before us, and STEP Ahead is helping us seize it,” said National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO and Manufacturing Institute Chairman Jay Timmons.

Women constitute one of manufacturing's largest pools of untapped talent. Women total about 29 percent of the manufacturing workforce, far below their representation in the U.S. labor force as a whole. Research by the Institute, Deloitte and APICS Supply Chain Council found that STEP Ahead Honorees and Emerging Leaders are promoted more often, have a clearer vision of their career path and aspirations and are committed to encouraging future generations of women to pursue manufacturing careers. In five years, STEP Ahead Award winners impacted more than 300,000 individuals, engaging in efforts to develop women in their careers and the next generation.

"I am extremely proud of the 130 women being honored this year. More than ever, we are seeing companies with strong female leadership across the board. In the sixth year of STEP Ahead, we are continuing to add to this esteemed group of women leaders who will remain ambassadors for the industry, learn from each other and pay it forward with the knowledge they've gained from this unique experience," said Manufacturing Institute Executive Director Carolyn Lee.

"The women who we are celebrating today represent the exciting career opportunities available in manufacturing," said Arconic Vice President of Human Resources and 2018 STEP Ahead Chair Natalie Schilling. "The STEP Ahead Award honors successful women in this industry for their significant achievements and the positive impact they have made on their companies, their communities and the industry as a whole."

"I'm honored to work alongside these distinguished leaders to help advance women in manufacturing, encourage younger generations to be part of this thriving industry and tell the story of modern manufacturing," said Deloitte Vice Chairman and U.S. Consumer & Industrial Products Leader and 2018 STEP Ahead Vice Chair Seema Pajula.

Learn more about the Institute's continued leadership on women in manufacturing [here](#).

MEDIA RSVP: Members of the media interested in covering or attending the awards gala should contact Manufacturing Institute Associate, Program Communications Cristina Crawford at ccrawford@nam.org. To learn more about the 2018 STEP Ahead Awards, click [here](#).

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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.

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2018 STEP Ahead Award Honorees and Emerging Leaders

**Asterisk indicates an Emerging Leader*

Meysane Alj Hakim* Intel Corporation	Brooke Carr Caterpillar Inc.	Kelly Dees Ingersoll Rand
Tomasina Bailey Eaton	Mariacristina Castelli Noven Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Eryn Devola Siemens Mobility
Beth Ballard Ecolab	Claire Castleman* Eaton	Heidi Dirgins Barnes Group Inc., Barnes Aerospace
Paloma Barraza Jabil	Jessica Cavens Encana Corp.	Shannon Donnell Brown-Forman Corporation - Sonoma- Cutrer Vineyards
Tracy Barrells Sealed Air Corporation	Ranjana Chandramouli* Eli Lilly and Company	Clare Dowdalls Jabil
Teresa Bazan GLOBALFOUNDRIES	Suzanne Chevrier Sandvik Coromant Company	Sarah Duckworth Smiths Medical
Jeanne Beacham Delphon	Sonia Civeira BorgWarner	Jennifer Eckert* Ingersoll Rand
Jacquelyn Berry* UTC Aerospace Systems	Jacqueline McEntire Clark Ash Grove Cement Company	Cheryl English Acuity Brands, Inc.
Akhila Bhiman Fresenius Medical Care	Breanna Cornell* Essity	Heather Erickson AGCO Corporation
Lynnette Borrousch The Dow Chemical Company	Candace Corso* 3M	Mercedes Félix Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Guanajuato, Mexico
Veronica Braker BASF	Amy Costello Armstrong Flooring, Inc.	Nicole Flippin Duke Energy
Michelle Brown FMC	Annie Cowart Shaw Industries	Ann Franzen USG Corporation
Lisa Buice Shaw Industries	Lois Crandell GE Appliances, a Haier Company	Clare Frigo* Johnson Controls International
Samantha Burger* General Motors - Flint Assembly Center	Karen Crisp Sealed Air Corporation	Debora Fronczak 3M
Laurie Cantu AGCO Corporation		

Ellen Fulcher
Caterpillar Inc.

Linda Gallagher
John Middleton - An Altria
Company

Myriam Gateault*
Covestro, LLC

Kate Gauntner
The Sherwin-Williams
Company

Kelli Gilliam*
Huntington Ingalls
Industries

Kendra Goudreau*
GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Martha Patricia Herrera
Gonzalez
CEMEX

Lynn Graykowski
Welbilt

Valerie Harriell
Volvo Penta of the
Americas, LLC

Alicia Harris
Brunswick Corporation -
Brunswick Boat Group

Rachel Hawn*
AGCO Corporation

Ashleigh Henry*
O-I

Gina Henry
Owens Corning

Libby High*
Arconic

Cheryl Hodge
Eaton

Geri-Lyn Hoffman
LORD Corporation

Jeneen Horton
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing Alabama

Michele Jenkins
Kennametal Inc.

Brittany Kanz*
Aleris International Inc.

Heather Klish
AxleTech International

Dana Komin
General Motors

Angel Kraemer*
Ashley Furniture
Industries, Inc.

Helene Lagace
Aleris

Sherry Lee
Stanley Black and Decker

Jenna Leger*
USG Corporation

Jodi Lonneman*
Toyota

Elia Lopez
Procter & Gamble

Brooklyn Lynam*
Shaw Industries

Amanda Mahan
General Motors

Erin Martin
Hypertherm Inc.

Chelsey Martin-
Cruickshank*
Siemens

Morgan Mayer
Honeywell FM&T

Lora McCawley
Siemens

Angel McMullen-Gunn
UTC Aerospace Systems

Norma Medina
Cooper Standard

Carmen Mendez
Boston Scientific

Heather Meyer
Textron

Lori Miller
The Goodyear Tire &
Rubber Company

Cristina Munoz-Ojeda*
The Dow Chemical
Company

Joyce Niedringhaus
AK Steel Corporation

Stephanie Nilsen
Thermo Fisher Scientific

Ijeoma Omelogu*
Koppers Inc.

Jennifer Onofray
Illinois Tool Works

Patti Opacic
Covestro, LLC

Penni Orozco
MillerCoors

Kelly Pearson
The Toro Company

Chrissy Peloquin
Design Ready Controls

Melaynie Perkins
WestRock

Nancy Peterson
Peterson Tool Company,
Inc.

Leslie Petrie
International Paper

Kristen Pforr
BASF

Maria Piastre
Metallix Refining

Angie Pitt
O-I

Rachel Rich*
LORD Corporation

Julie Roberts
Johnson Controls

Edna Robinson
Ashley Furniture
Industries, Inc.

Misty Rogers
ESCO

Anne Roman
Cooper Tire & Rubber
Company

Audrey Rossman
Procter & Gamble

Julia Rubino
Covestro, LLC

Ayesha Satija*
AK Steel Corporation

Danyelle Saunders
Huntington Ingalls
Industries

Joyel Schaefer
UTC Aerospace Systems

Yvonne Schaeffer
John Deere
Joan Schatz
Park Industries

Megan Sewell
Merck & Co., Inc.

Marygrace Sexton
Natalie's Orchid Island
Juice Company

Jennifer Sherman
Federal Signal

Monica Silliman
John Deere Harvester
Works

Julie Simonson
Schwan's Company

Bridget Sparrow
The Dow Chemical
Company

Breanne Stockon*
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing Indiana

Jianhua (Daisy) Sun
Kennametal Inc.

Starlee Sykes
BP

Amanda Taylor*
BASF

Melanie Tibbetts*
Pratt & Whitney

Jennie Tinney
The Goodyear Tire &
Rubber Company

Donna Toothman
Arconic

Evelyn Torres
Solaris Technologies

Shelley Tubaugh
Grady-White Boats, Inc.

Barbara VanderMolen
A.O. Smith Corporation

Erid Valdez Vasquez
Rockwell Automation

Lisa Vensel
AK Steel Corporation

Katharine Wagner*
GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Marissa Webb*
Huntington Ingalls
Industries

Rachel Wilde
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company

Joan Wrenn
Hudson Precision
Products Co.

Janet Zlomek
Pfizer Inc.