



For Immediate Release

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The State of Manufacturing in **New York and the Mid-Hudson**

The Council of Industry held its Annual Luncheon and Expo on Friday, November 4th at the Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY. The turn out this year was spectacular with over 170 industry leaders in attendance. The keynote speaker, Robert Ward, Deputy Director of The Rockefeller Institute, delivered a status report on Manufacturing in New York State. There were also six individuals that received the Certificate of Manufacturing Leadership for completing coursework through Dutchess Community College. Council of Industry Executive Vice President, Harold King, declared the day a great success in promoting manufacturing throughout the Hudson Valley.

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturing association of the Hudson Valley for over a century. CI provides training, discounts, advocacy, and networking opportunities for companies throughout the southeastern part of New York State and the Annual Luncheon & Expo offers members an excellent networking opportunity. The event kicks off with the Member/Associate Member Expo. Those companies participating in the Expo have the chance to display their products and services to the industry decision makers of the Hudson Valley. Companies participating in the Expo range from insurance and staffing to printing, construction and janitorial equipment and supplies just to name a few.

As the Luncheon portion began, King and Dutchess Community College Dean Virginia Stoeffel presented the Certificate of Manufacturing Leadership to the following individuals for their completion of a supervisory training program. Certificates were given to Tim Navitsky from Balchem Products, Jesse Croft of MPI and from Alcoa Fastening Systems: Ron Chambers, Dave Blair, Nick Gougoutris, and Linda Hanley. State Senator William Larkin was in attendance and also presented the certificate recipients with commendations for their hard work and commitment.

As lunch was served Ward began his keynote on the status of manufacturing in New York State. Mr. Ward has a position of great insight having studied and written about New York State government for more than 25 years in a variety of positions such as newspaper reporter, assistant to the chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, and director of research for The Public Policy Institute of New York State. He has also served as an independent fiscal advisor to

three New York state governors and is the author of New York State Government, the leading text in this field published in 2002 by the Institute.

Ward explained that despite the challenges of the current economic situation, manufacturing remains enormously important to the Upstate economy, and to the entire state of New York. One statistic that Ward presented was that Manufacturing payrolls generate 15 – 20 % of private wages in many communities. He also explained that the rate of employment decline has been better in New York State than across the country for the past several decades. He discussed how the high cost of doing business in New York has affected manufacturers. The cost of energy for example was 25% higher in New York than the country average a decade ago and in 2008 it was still 8% higher than the country average. The change was only because energy prices rose dramatically in other states while the remained more consistent here in New York. He concluded by saying that there are two ways to build and preserve an economic base, including manufacturing. First is to attract and stimulate new jobs and second is to preserve the jobs you already have.

The Council of Industry would like to thank the Annual Luncheon sponsors that made this event possible. The Major sponsor was JABIL Circuit, Inc. and the supporting sponsors were The Chazen Companies, Direct Energy M&T Bank and Verticon, Ltd.

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