

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2019

For More Information contact:

Serena Cascarano
Council of Industry
6 Albany Post Road
Newburgh, NY 12550
845.565.1355

scascarano@councilofindustry.org

www.councilofindustry.org

Manufacturing Champions Honored at Council of Industry Award Breakfast

Each year the Council of Industry, the manufacturing association of the Hudson Valley, recognizes the individuals and organizations, who through vision, dedication, hard work and tireless involvement have helped to overcome some of the many obstacles faced by manufactures in the Hudson Valley community making it possible for manufacturers and their employees to prosper. On Friday, May 17th, the Council honored the 2019 Manufacturing Champions at a breakfast held at the Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY. The Council of Industry was proud to honor Meghan Taylor, Director of the Mid-Hudson Region at the Empire State Development Corporation for the public sector, Robb Engle, Vice President of Engineering at Sono-Tek Corporation for the private sector, Bryan Van Vliet, technology teacher at Saugerties High School as the educator champion and the organizational award went to the Workforce Development Institute (WDI).

The event was sponsored by Central Hudson; Global Foundries; The Chazen Companies; Viking Industries; The Affinity Group; Elna Magnetics; and Allendale Machinery Systems. The event drew a crowd of over 190 people.

The private sector champion, Meghan Taylor, was introduced by the Operations Manager of Middletown's Pratt & Whitney Advanced Coating Technologies, John Yelle. Meghan has been responsible for guiding and managing ESD's Mid-Hudson Regional Office and Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative within the seven County Region. She secures state investments that leverage significant private investment for a variety of projects that contribute to economic growth and job creation in the Mid-Hudson region. Meghan has paid particular attention to the Region's manufacturers ensuring that advanced manufacturing is a priority industry for the REDC and working to bring resources to bear to assist their growth and expansion.

Steve Harshbarger, President of Sono-Tek Corporation introduced Robb Engle who accepted the private sector award. Robb has created the Sono-Tek Service Department and led the development of key products in his leadership role of Sono-Tek's engineering resources. Robb has recently been at the forefront of implanting an automated, software driven system that autonomously creates and prioritizes work orders for every work station on the manufacturing floor. This system has increased the accuracy and efficiency of every work center by 10-20% and eliminated 10-20 hours per week of work order processing and another 20-40 hours per week of sales order product analysis.

The educator champion award was presented to Bryan Van Vliet by President of Elna Magnetics, Joe Ferraro. Bryan has developed programs for his technology students that are not only interesting and educational but prepare them for the future workforce. He has arranged plant tours at local manufacturing facilities, and he includes a diverse set of projects that vary from gardening to 3D printing

to writing computer programs to control a trackless train. He has also coached teams in VEX robotics and SeaPerch at both junior and senior high levels.

The Workforce Development Institute is the organization champion for their work in identifying targeted strategies that address workforce development opportunities and challenges. These strategies can include partnerships, training and/or funding. Their strength is their ability to identify trends, quickly fill gaps not covered by other programs, and then move successful programs throughout the state.

Manufacturing companies are retooling/retraining and making investments in product innovation, equipment, facilities, and the workforce. WDI believes a healthy manufacturing base is a key driver to grow the rest of the economy and they're interested in seeing the new jobs of manufacturing – with solid wages and career trajectories – come to NYS. That award was presented by Council of Industry President Harold King.



2019 Manufacturing Champions (from left to right): Bryan Van Vliet, Robb Engle, Sonja Brown and Meghan Taylor

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturer's association of the Hudson Valley since 1910.

Council membership includes manufacturers and businesses related to the manufacturing industry throughout the Hudson Valley region. It is a privately funded not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the success of its member firms and their employees, and through them contribute to the success of the Hudson Valley Community.

#####