



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2nd Women in Manufacturing STEP Awards Recognize Women for Excellence in Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Institute Will Honor Jen Miller, General Manager Customer Fabrication at Behlen Mfg. Co.

Washington, DC, January 6, 2014: The Manufacturing Institute announced they will award Jen Miller with the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Award. The STEP 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.

When asked what guidance she would give to an individual considering a career in manufacturing, Jen said, "Grow from your experiences, utilize continuous learning, and build great relationships. Check out some products and how they are made. You will find that there are a variety of exciting careers that you may not be aware of. Bring your passion and a desire to learn and you will succeed!"

Phil Raimondo, President and CEO Behlen Mfg. Co., said, "Jen is a rising star at Behlen. She has risen through the ranks in her 16 year career, and she is currently leading our fastest growing business unit with stellar bottom line results." "Using our tuition reimbursement program," TR Raimondo, Chairman and Coach, said, "Jen earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Congratulations Jen! This award is well-deserved."

"These 160 women are the faces of exciting careers in manufacturing," said Jennifer McNelly, president, 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. "The STEP 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 best practices for attracting, advancing, and retaining strong female talent.

A recent survey from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute found that nearly 70 percent of American manufacturing companies have a moderate to severe shortage of available, qualified workers.

On February 6, The Manufacturing Institute will recognize 160 recipients of the STEP Awards at a reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Awards program will highlight each honoree's story, including their leadership and accomplishments in manufacturing.

About COMPANY

Behlen Mfg. Co. is a world-class steel fabricator headquartered in Columbus, NE. For more information, please visit <u>www.behlenmfg.com</u>.

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 <u>www.themanufacturinginstitute.org</u>.