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For more information contact:

Alison Butler
Council of Industry
6 Albany Post Road
Newburgh, NY 12550
845.565.1355

abutler@councilofindustry.org

www.councilofindustry.org

**Congressman Chris Gibson, Bruce Phipps, President
of MPI, Inc. and SUNY Ulster Department of
Continuing and Professional Education Honored at
Manufacturing Champions Award Breakfast**

The Council of Industry's Manufacturing Champions Award recognizes those individuals and organizations, who through vision, dedication, hard work and tireless involvement have helped to overcome some of the many obstacles faced by manufacturers in the Hudson Valley community and in so doing they have made it possible for manufacturers and their employees to prosper. The Council of Industry was proud to honor the 2014 Manufacturing Champions for the Hudson Valley, Congressman Chris Gibson for the public sector, Bruce Phipps, President of MPI, Inc. for the private sector, and the organizational award went to the SUNY Ulster

Department of Continuing and Professional Education, at the annual award breakfast on May 14th at Novella's in New Paltz. The Council of Industry would like to thank our major sponsor Central Hudson and supporting sponsors: The Chazen Companies; Cuddy & Feder, LLP; O'Connor Davies, LLP; and The Rondout Savings Bank. The event drew a crowd of over 130 people from a variety of industries to celebrate Hudson Valley manufacturing.

“Manufacturing remains an important part of the Hudson Valley economy providing good jobs to tens of thousands of its residents and generating billions of dollars of wealth in our economy,” Harold King, Executive Vice President of the Council of Industry, explained. “The Manufacturing Champions Award recognizes these individuals and organizations for their contributions in growing this vital aspect of our economy.”

The public sector champion, Congressman Gibson, was chosen based on his support of legislation aimed at fueling U.S. manufacturing such as reducing over-regulation, comprehensive pro-growth tax reform, and investment in transportation and infrastructure. Locally, Congressman Gibson has been a champion of advanced manufacturing, nanotechnology, renewable energy and agriculture. In addition, Congressman Gibson has received an 86% rating on key votes from National Association of Manufacturers and is widely respected for his willingness to reach across the aisle help his Hudson Valley constituents.

“I want to thank the Council of Industry and its hard-working members for all of their efforts to grow the economy of Upstate New York,” said Congressman Gibson. “It is a great honor to receive the Manufacturing Champions Award for the public sector. I will continue to advocate for federal policies that make it easier to run a small business, from reducing regulatory burdens to cutting energy costs. I sincerely appreciate your support. Thank you!”

The private sector champion, Bruce Phipps has built Poughkeepsie based MPI, Inc. from a small manufacturing company building wax injection presses to a leader in the investment casting industry worldwide. MPI produces the most advanced wax injection machines available. The company employs over 65 people in the US and has sales agents worldwide. In the past 42 years of operation, under the direction of Bruce Phipps, MPI has made dozens of industry leading innovations, seven of which MPI has patented. Their equipment has been sold to 44 countries. MPI exports MADE IN AMERICA equipment to China! The company has partnered with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NY State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in conjunction with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) on several research and development activities.

Upon accepting his award Phipps thanked his wife and partner at MPI, Mim Tannen. He also spoke about the importance of encouraging young people to enter careers in manufacturing. “If manufacturing is going to succeed in the Hudson Valley we will need to attract the best and the brightest young people into the sector,” Phipps said. “All of us

in this room need to get that message out to young people and to educators.”

The Council of Industry also honored the SUNY Ulster Department of Continuing and Professional Education as the champion organization for providing training to help manufacturers improve their bottom line by improving employee competency and productivity. SUNY Ulster offers a continuous schedule of industry-standard skills training and continuing education for both technical and non-technical employees and customized programs to align with the organization’s specific needs. A partial list of the programs available through SUNY Ulster include Leadership, Effective Supervision and Teambuilding, Lean Manufacturing, Solidworks, Electrical Skills, PLC’s and Machine Operator Skills. Accepting the award on behalf of SUNY Ulster was President Donald Katt, Associate Dean of Continuing & Professional Education Deborah O’Connor, and Christopher Marx , Director of Continuing & Professional Education.

Selecting the Manufacturing Champions each spring is not an easy task and this year there were more nominees than ever before. The Council has been publically recognizing the contributions of individuals from both the public and private sectors since 2006. This year’s Champions join a distinguished group that includes: Jim King, IBM; Richard and Carole Parker, FairRite Products; Jack Effron, EFCO Products; Taylor Thompson, Millbrook Technologies; Richard Croce, Viking Industries, Roger Smith, Pawling Corporation; New York State Senators William Larkin and Stephen Saland; Orange County Executive Ed Diana; Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro; Ulster County Executive Mike Hein; SUNY New Paltz School of Business; Central Hudson and

the Hudson Valley Economic Development Center. More information about the award and past recipients can be found on the Council of Industry website at:

<http://www.councilofindustry.org/manufacturing-champions/>

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturer's association of the Hudson Valley since 1910. Our membership includes manufacturers and businesses related to the manufacturing industry throughout Southeastern New York. We are a privately funded not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the success of our member firms and their employees, and through them contribute to the success of the Hudson Valley Community. We provide access to training, networking opportunities, advocacy and discounts on products and services for our members

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