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## **Hudson Valley Manufacturing Celebrated at Council of Industry Annual Luncheon**

Manufacturers from throughout the Hudson Valley gathered on November 7<sup>th</sup> for the Council of Industry's Annual Luncheon and Member / Associate Member Expo at the Dutchess Golf Club in Poughkeepsie, NY. The keynote address was given by E.J. McMahon, president of the Empire Center for Public Policy, Inc., who discussed the current fiscal state of affairs for New York and the impact of the election results. The event honored the recipients of the Certificate in Manufacturing Leadership which was presented at the luncheon by SUNY Dutchess Dean Virginia Stoeffel. The Council of Industry also premiered short video segments that will be added to their website highlighting local manufacturers. There were over 200 manufacturers and associated industry professionals in attendance at the event.

Keynote speaker, E.J. McMahon has written numerous pieces on regional, state and local issues, recommending policy changes and reforms to increase economic growth. His

presentation focused on the way upstate New York is lagging behind much if not all of the other states and down state New York in recovering from the recession. He included slides on the out-migration of New York residents to other states, and the past few attempts at cutting and restructuring New York's deficit-ridden state budget. Some key points McMahon hit on were how private employment upstate peaked in 2000 and hasn't fully recovered from the last two recessions, and upstate's relative economic decline is strongly related to its long-term loss of manufacturing jobs—which has exceeded the national decline — and its failure to generate sufficient new employment opportunities in other sectors. The lack of opportunity in upstate New York is reflected in population trends over the past two decades—especially the region's failure to retain young adults. His articles have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Barron's, the Public Interest, the New York Post, the New York Daily News, Newsday, and the New York Sun, among other publications. McMahon was the Council of Industry's keynote speaker in 2009 and we are thrilled to have him back again.

Seventeen graduates of the Manufacturing Leadership program were recognized at the luncheon. SUNY Dutchess and the Council of Industry have been partners for over fifteen years in this constantly evolving program designed to provide skill sets for supervisors and managers. Ten full day classes cover topics from Fundamentals of Leadership to Problem Solving & Decision Making, to Making a Profit in Manufacturing. Virginia Stoeffel, Dean of Community Services and Special Programs at SUNY Dutchess presented the following individuals with their certificates: Matthew Mc Donald from Alcoa Fastening Systems; Don Sylvester from Ametek; Jason Chabut, Gerald Pulis, and Jay Reed, from Balchem Corporation; Jim Reap and Ben Rothwell, from MPI; Karen Chastain, Gary Dohrman, Fabian Juhr, Evelyn Rivera, and James Wilson, from Selux; Marc Weiss from Stanfordville Machine & Mfg.; Tracy Diviesti, Arthur Grund, Brian Harris, and Sharon Roff, from Zumtobel Lighting.

The Expo portion of the event showcased the products and services Council of Industry members and associate members provide. There was a wide variety of displays from insurance,

construction, gift baskets, video production, custodial products, staffing, training and packaging, just to name a few. This is an opportunity for members and associate members to showcase their wares and make connections.

Sponsorships make this event possible and The Council of Industry would like to thank the following supporting sponsors for their support of Hudson Valley Manufacturing: The Chazen Companies, Direct Energy Business, Jabil Circuit Inc., TD Bank, Verticon Ltd., Zumtobel Lighting.

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