



**For Immediate Release**

June 2, 2015

**For more information contact:**

Alison Butler  
Council of Industry  
6 Albany Post Road  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
845.565.1355  
[abutler@councilofindustry.org](mailto:abutler@councilofindustry.org)  
[www.councilofindustry.org](http://www.councilofindustry.org)

**Manufacturing Champions Recognized for Achievements on May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Each spring the Council of Industry, the manufacturers association of the Hudson Valley, recognizes individuals from the private and public sector along with an organization, 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. On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Council honored the 2015 recipients of the Manufacturing Champion Awards at a breakfast held at the Dutchess Golf Club in Poughkeepsie, NY. The 2015 Honorees are Ralf Ludwig, General Manager of JBT Wolf-tec in Kingston, NY, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, and SUNY Dutchess Community Services.

Before the awards ceremony began, Jenko Kent from Stage 6 Media present the industry leaders and elected officials in the audience with the findings of a joint project with the Council of Industry to develop an initiative to encourage young people here in the Hudson Valley to consider careers in advanced manufacturing. The final goal of this project is to build a set of tools that shows students, parents, and educators what manufacturing is really all about, and what kind of opportunity is available in this industry. Kent shared the insights from discussions with over 15 manufacturers and industry experts, 20 educators in the school and college systems, and spoke to or surveyed over 120 parents and 250 students across the Hudson Valley. The findings showed that there a many misconceptions among both manufacturers and their future workforce concerning what modern manufacturing is and who would be interested in careers in modern manufacturing.

The private sector champion, Ralf Ludwig, General Manager of Wolf-tec for John Bean Technologies (JBT) Corporation, was introduced by past Manufacturing Champion and Ulster County Executive Michael Hein. Ralf's 30 years of hard work and commitment led to the acquisition of his company, Wolf-tec, Inc., an innovative equipment manufacturer providing processing solutions for poultry, beef, pork, and seafood, to JBT in December 2014. He remains in a leadership position at Wolf-tec working to increase manufacturing in Kingston. Ralf is dedicated to improving the skills and opportunities of the region's workforce. Ralf, or his team, sit on numerous education committees and he has worked intensively with SUNY Delhi to first champion, and then create, a Mechatronics program. Ralf emphasized that he was able to do all that he has accomplished as part of a larger team that encompasses others at Wolf-tec and his family. He also touched on the earlier presentation saying that, "We can build up manufacturing by building on our youth."

Cedric Glasper, President of Mechanical Rubber Products introduced Michael Limperopulos, District Director for Congressman Maloney, who accepted the award on behalf of the traveling congressman. Since arriving in Congress, public sector champion Representative Sean Patrick Maloney has worked hard to deliver results for his Hudson Valley neighbors. By partnering with local leaders to secure investments in new technology, Representative Maloney is fighting to make sure that the Hudson Valley remains a great place to do business. He believes that manufacturing has a vital role to play in the economy of New York and in providing good jobs for the next generation. Limperopulos emphasized that his office has resources for manufacturers in the way of assistance in completing grant paperwork, creating legislation that can help manufacturers and creating awareness of issues that affect manufacturers.

SUNY Dutchess Community Services is the organization champion for consistently providing training to manufacturers in a variety of areas from supervisory leadership classes to Solidworks and lean training. Dr. Steve Pomeroy, President of Schatz Bearing Corp. presented Dr. Ellen Gambino, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at SUNY Dutchess. Pomeroy explained that the courses offered by Dutchess help manufacturers improve their bottom line by improving employee competency and productivity. They are able to customize programs to align with the specific needs of a company taking care to matching the best possible instructor to achieve goals and work relentlessly to access resources to minimize the cost of training to the employers. The Council of Industry has worked with SUNY Dutchess to offer the Certificate in Manufacturing Leadership program for over 15 years. The program is designed to offer valuable skill sets through day long courses designed by manufacturers to help participants meet the challenges of the modern globally competitive workplace.

This event was made possible by our supporting sponsors and we would like to thank the following companies for their contribution and support of Hudson Valley manufacturing: The Chazen Companies, Rondout Savings Bank, Central Hudson, Tompkins Mahopac Bank, and JBT Wolf-tec.

**#####**