



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Holds Manufacturing Champions Breakfast

NEWBURGH, May 13 - The Council of Industry presented its 2016 Manufacturing Champions their awards this morning at a breakfast ceremony held at The Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY. The award recognizes individuals from the private sector, public sector, and education, 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 have made it possible for manufacturers and their employees to prosper.

The private sector champion was Michael Ratliff, President of Poughkeepsie based Marco Manufacturing, Inc. When Atlantic Design Corporation closed their Poughkeepsie facility, where Mike Ratliff was General Manager, he decided to open his own manufacturing business (Marco Manufacturing). Marco is now in its 20th year of operation and employs over 30 people (most of which were former Atlantic Design employees) and services more than 25 customers. Mike's commitment to the customer base, employees and the region is the basis for the success Marco has achieved. "20 years ago we all got laid off," Ratliff recalled before introducing some of the employees who had been with him since Atlantic Design, "And we're here now because we all stuck with it and made a plan."

For public sector champion Dr. Cliff Wood, President of SUNY Rockland was selected by the Council's Board of Directors. During his tenure Dr. Wood has overseen major growth in the College's enrollment, community involvement, and workforce development. Dr. Wood has led efforts to meet the workforce development needs of Hudson Valley Manufacturers through the creation of the Manufacturing Center at the college's Haverstraw campus and the expansion of its 3D Printing Center. The college has also begun, in partnership with the Council of Industry, a Certificate in Manufacturing Leadership. Dr. Wood has led statewide advocacy efforts on behalf of community colleges in his capacity as President of the New York Community Colleges Association of Presidents, a position he held from 2009-13. As a key member of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, Dr. Wood plays an important role in advancing the economy of the Hudson Valley. "This is all of our jobs," Wood said, "To improve the economic development of this great state."

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress was the organization honored this year. Pattern for Progress is a regional planning and policy organization that for 50 years has tried to "connect the dots" among a multiplicity of issues in an effort to improve the region's quality of life. More than ever before, Pattern is now working to integrate the revitalization of manufacturing into the region's future. Pattern has recently finished a project which mapped all the workforce and economic development resources in the region that support

manufacturing. This “Asset Map” will become an integral part of a sector based regionaleconomic and workforce development strategy. “I believe in lost causes” saidPattern CEO Jonathan Drapkin, “Pattern is there to create an environment inwhich other people can prosper.”

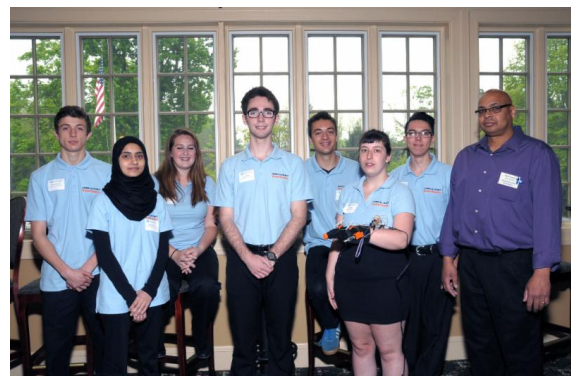
Last but not least, Mark Harris of Ulster BOCES was chosen to be the first ever educator champion. A teacher in metal trades, as well as the leader of the Solar Car project, the MIT robotic arm project, and the NASA prototype project. He has worked to build the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) classroom, and encouraged countless young people to pursue careers in machining. “My students have coming in on the weekend, they are dedicated students,” Harris said in accepting, “They are why I do what I do.”

As part of the presentation to Mr. Harris and his team of high school students, the Ulster BOCES Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam, demonstrated the robotic exoskeleton arm they designed and built under his tutelage. The device was touted as a tool to aid victims of stroke and paralysis with their physical therapy.

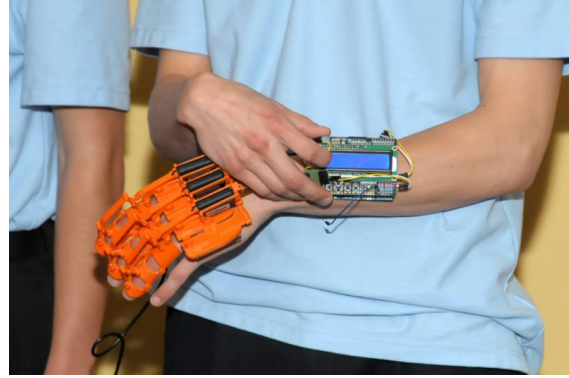
Support for the event was provided by its major sponsor Ulster Savings Bank, as well as supporting sponsors The Chazen Companies, PKFO’Connor Davies, Allendale Machinery, Central Hudson, and Hudson Valley Patter for Progress.



Clockwise from upper left: Mike Ratliff, Cliff Wood, Mark Harris, and Jonathan Drapkin



Mark Harris and his New Vision students display the robotic exoskeleton arm they designed and built.



About the Council of Industry

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.

About the Manufacturing Champions Awards

The purpose of the award is to recognize 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.

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