



# STEP AHEAD

WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING 2014

**W**e are honored to officially congratulate the 2014 Women in Manufacturing STEP Awards Honorees. We are recognizing 160 women from over 110 companies for their positive impacts on their companies, communities, and the manufacturing industry as a whole. As you flip through the pages of this book, you will see 160 faces. Each face represents the people that make manufacturing possible. You will notice the diversity of their careers—from machinists and welders, to plant managers and CEOs.

These 160 women are not just inventors and scientists and engineers; they are parents and neighbors and citizens. They are the best of the best; and still only a fraction of the female talent in the industry.

The manufacturing industry faces many challenges—a misguided public perception, a growing skills gap, and challenging politics. Yet, these women illustrate a different future. As Madam Marie Curie said, "We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained."

We all have a role to play in ensuring our nation's competitiveness through our commitment to manufacturing.

By telling the real stories of these women, we can inspire the next-generation of talent to pursue careers in the industry and encourage current female talent within the manufacturing industry.

We, as manufacturers, must show women the huge opportunities in this sector to pave the way for more women, and to ensure the continued success of our manufacturing industry.

We, as manufacturers, must empower each other as ambassadors of the industry we

love. We can make America strong.

We can make the difference.



**JENNIFER MCNELLY**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**THE MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE**



**LATONDRA NEWTON**  
**CHIEF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OFFICER**  
**TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

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# BRENDA RYAN

OWNER AND PRESIDENT  
RYAN INDUSTRIES, INC. AND  
ALLIANCE INDUSTRIES, LLC

Brenda has been instrumental in the re-vamping, designing and building of a range of programs and systems which resulted not only in enhanced quality, but also in increased sales and satisfaction for all parties. Efforts to innovate and deliver exceptional results have made Brenda and her companies role models for the industry. Over the years, the companies have received a variety of awards for their commitment to excellence and innovation.

Brenda's personal philosophy of satisfying the social contract is infused throughout the corporate culture of both businesses. In addition to her exceptional leadership, Brenda is active in the community by sharing one of her passions: golf. An avid golfer, she has participated in and spearheaded a range of charitable ventures including Susan G. Komen- Rally for the Cure (benefiting breast cancer research), Midnight Golf (serving underprivileged, at risk youth), Evans Scholars (providing college scholarships for caddies from modest means), New Horizons (serving the needs of the physically and/or mentally challenged) and others. She also supports the "Breakfast with Santa" initiative and volunteers at Grace Centers of Hope (serving the homeless and recovering addicts). Employees are inspired by her active involvement and model that behavior.

She has served in a number of leadership roles with her Alma Mater, Michigan Technological University, including many board positions, and has been active in numerous professional organizations throughout her career.

"A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN MANUFACTURING REQUIRES MORE THAN IT BEING JUST A JOB, IT ALSO REQUIRES COMPLETE IMMERSION IN THE OVERALL CONCEPT. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND DEDICATED INVOLVEMENT WITH INDUSTRY-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS WILL ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO MAXIMIZE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR FUTURE AND ALSO THAT OF OUR INDUSTRY."