

**MFG** 2021  
excellence  
**AWARDS**

nominations open at [mimfg.org](http://mimfg.org)  
June 14 – August 20, 2021



# About the Awards

Michigan manufacturers have made **exceptional contributions** in the face of adversity to their workforce, their communities, the economy and the industry. **Celebrate manufacturing excellence by nominating** a deserving individual, outstanding company or noteworthy product for the 2021 MFG Excellence Awards. The Awards are presented during a prestigious evening of celebration and recognition to honor the rich history and bright future of Michigan manufacturing.

## Award Nomination Process

Teams of independent judges determine Award recipients based on the content and quality of the completed nomination forms. Anyone, except MMA staff, may nominate an individual or company within Michigan’s manufacturing industry. **Self-nominations are encouraged.** The submission of additional information about the nominee and the company, such as letters of recommendation/commendation, testimonials, press articles and company brochures, is highly encouraged. You may submit multiple nominations for each category. However, numerous nominations for the same person/organization/program will not make them more likely to be selected.

## Award Categories

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## Event Sponsorship

In the face of uncertainty, manufacturers never hesitated to stand up to the challenge and do what they do best; now you can recognize them for their dedicated service. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are available — contact MMA’s Sarah Martin, at 517-487-8521 or martin@mimfg.org, to show your pride in the manufacturing industry

# MFG Lifetime Achievement

The MFG Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a manufacturer who has excelled in the industry and inspires his or her peers, emerging leaders, lawmakers and educators to strive to make significant contributions to his or her company, industry and community.

*Awarded to an individual*

## Criteria

Please submit one or more letters of support stating why this individual should be considered for a Lifetime Achievement Award. Questions that may be answered in these letters of support include:

1. How has the individual utilized his/her manufacturing business, resources and personal leadership skills in making a key contribution to the community and to the state of Michigan?
2. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated innovative leadership.
3. How have they demonstrated dedication to the manufacturing community?
4. How has the nominee served MMA and/or other professional, community or philanthropic organizations?
5. What other information about the nominee may be helpful to the judges in their evaluation? This can include letters of recommendation, certification achievements or accolades, etc.



“Success is doing something that you’re passionate about and improve the world in some way. Success is when other people see you and can’t tell whether you’re working or playing — and neither can you.”

— Ron Beebe, Euclid Industries  
Chairman & CEO and 2020 MFG  
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

# John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year

The Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award was established to honor the important, positive and tangible contributions individual manufacturers make to their employees, customers and communities and has honored some of Michigan's most well-known brands since 1981. This prestigious Award now carries the memory of MMA's longest serving president, John G. Thodis, whose lifetime of industry service is one that all deserving manufacturers strive to duplicate.

*Large Tier: 201 or more employees, awarded to a company or individual*

*Small Tier: 200 or fewer employees, awarded to an individual*



“It’s just incredible, the recognition is just amazing. I know how hard our team works and I know they deserve this. It’s just such an incredible honor to be recognized in this manner. We’re just thrilled. We’re over-the-moon happy about receiving this award this year.”

— Margie Simmons, CEO of 2020  
John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer  
of the Year Award Winner (large tier)  
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# John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year

## Criteria (for both small and large tiers)

1. How has the individual/company utilized his/her manufacturing business, resources and personal leadership skills in making a key contribution to the community and to the state of Michigan?
2. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated innovative leadership.
3. How have they demonstrated dedication to the manufacturing community?
4. How has the nominee served MMA and/or other professional, community or philanthropic organizations?
5. What other information about the nominee may be helpful to the judges in their evaluation? This can include letters of recommendation, certification achievements or accolades, etc.

“It’s a highly coveted prize...I want to thank our team members. Our team members are what builds our culture, the fabric of our organization. This award isn’t about me or anyone else... it’s about all of us. I think this has been huge. It’s amazing that the MMA recognizes this statewide. We’re very honored to receive this award.”

— Jon DeWys, CEO of 2020 John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award Winner (small tier) DeWys Manufacturing Inc.



**DEWYS**  
Manufacturing

# MFG Woman of the Year

The MFG Woman of the Year Award honors the roles women play in manufacturing as well as their significant achievements in the industry and positive impacts within their companies and communities. An individual woman at any level of manufacturing, from the factory floor to the C-suite, is eligible to be nominated.

*Awarded to an individual woman at any level of manufacturing*

## Criteria

1. How has the individual utilized her manufacturing business, resources, and personal leadership skills to make key contributions to the success and growth of the industry?
2. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated innovative leadership and gained results within the organization.
3. How has she demonstrated dedication to the manufacturing community and female talent in the industry?
4. How has the nominee served MMA and/or other professional, community or philanthropic organizations?
5. What other information about the nominee may be helpful to the judges in their evaluation? This can include letters of recommendation, certification achievements or accolades, etc.

“It should be everyone’s goal that women and minorities have equal seating in the conference room, the control room, the board room — in every room.”

— *Honor Sheard, Marathon Petroleum Company Environmental Safety and Security Manager and 2020 MFG Woman of the Year*



# MFG Innovation Excellence

The MFG Innovation Excellence Award recognizes a company that has introduced noteworthy innovations to advance the industry. This Award showcases a company that not only has brought an innovative concept to market but has developed and maintained a culture focused on engaging the workforce to bring new ideas to life.

*Awarded to a company*

## Criteria

1. Describe how this manufacturer has developed an innovative product or process that is a game changer for their customers, industry or others?
2. How has the company developed, and maintained, a culture of innovation?
3. How does the company utilize innovation and technology to problem solve?
4. What process is used to bring new ideas to life?
5. How has this company served MMA and/or other professional, community and philanthropic organizations?



“This [award] is very prestigious and we hope that we continue to innovate and grow our business and make [our team] proud of the fact that they’re recognizing us for the award.”

— Scott Murray, VP Operations  
of XG Sciences, 2020  
MFG Innovation Excellence  
Award Winner

# MFG Talent Champion

The MFG Talent Champion works to bring focus to the critical need to attract Michigan's next generation workforce to the industry's variety of career options.

*Awarded to a program or an individual*

## Criteria

1. How has the individual or program utilized manufacturing business, resources and leadership to strengthen the manufacturing skilled workforce?
2. How has the nominee developed and maintained a culture to support manufacturing talent?
3. How has the individual or program engaged stakeholders and utilized local and state resources to address manufacturing talent challenges?
4. How has the nominee served MMA and/or other professional, community or philanthropic organizations?
5. What other information about the nominee may be helpful to the judges in their evaluation? This can include letters of recommendation, certification achievements or accolades, etc.

“I get to show the world what a great place manufacturing is for a career...I'm so honored that anyone would consider recognizing me, but really this is an award for our community partners and for the whole Nexteer family.”

— Julie Malesky, Nexteer Automotive  
Organizational Effectiveness  
Manager and 2020 MFG  
Talent Champion





# MFG Community Impact

The MFG Community Impact Award recognizes a manufacturing business that has shown exemplary leadership in serving its community or state, and is an example of the involved and giving nature of manufacturers.

*Awarded to a company*

## Criteria

1. How has the company utilized the manufacturing business, resources and leadership to contribute to the community?
2. What impact has this manufacturing operation had on the community?
3. How does the community service work and charitable activities the company is engaged in fit within their mission and/or advancing the manufacturing industry?
4. How does the company engage employees of all levels to have a positive community impact?
5. How has this company served MMA and/or other professional, community and philanthropic organizations?

“Being a strong, contributing member of our community is just part of our core. It starts with our people. Our people don’t just work at HSC, they live in the Great Lakes Bay Region and their friends and families do, too. So, for us, it’s essential to maintain that connection to the place where we all live and work.”

— Brooke Beebe, Vice President of External Affairs at Hemlock Semiconductor Operations, 2020 MFG Community Impact Award Winner



# MFG Emerging Leader

The MFG Emerging Leader is awarded for noteworthy contributions to the industry and the potential for future accomplishments within Michigan manufacturing. This Award recognizes and honors a new manufacturing leader who has been involved in the industry for less than 12 years.

*Awarded to an individual*

## Criteria

1. Describe how this individual is committed to the industry and his/her future potential.
2. How have they demonstrated dedication to the manufacturing community?
3. How has the nominee served MMA and/or other professional, community or philanthropic organizations?
4. What other information about the nominee may be helpful to the judges in their evaluation? This can include letters of recommendation, certification achievements or accolades, etc.



“To have the affirmation that you’re respected and appreciated by your coworkers [who submitted the nomination] adds to the pride that I have in working for HSC and our journey together.”

— *Phil Rausch, Hemlock Semiconductor Business Development Manager and 2020 MFG Emerging Leader*

# “Coolest Thing Made in Michigan” People’s Choice Award

## What’s the Coolest Thing Made in Michigan?

Billions of extraordinary products are made in Michigan every day and each year, the Michigan Manufacturers Association asks the people of Michigan to choose their favorite products.

The coveted title of “Coolest Thing Made in Michigan” works to build excitement about manufacturing and about Michigan-made products.

*Nominations are open June 14 – August 20, 2021.*

Voting begins this fall. Nominate today at [coolestthing.mimfg.org](http://coolestthing.mimfg.org)!

## How Does It Work?

Once nominations have been collected, two rounds of online voting will be held at [coolestthing.mimfg.org](http://coolestthing.mimfg.org). The first round people’s choice vote will determine the Top 10 coolest Michigan-made products. During the second round, voting will determine which of the Top 10 finalists will be deemed the “Coolest Thing” in 2021.

The winning product and its manufacturer will be announced live at the 2021 MFG Excellence Awards this fall.

2020

*Hyper-Pure Polysilicon  
Hemlock Semiconductor Operations*



2019

*Custom Booster Cylinder  
Peninsular Cylinder Co.*



2018

*The Original  
Stormy Kromer Cap  
Stormy Kromer*



## Highlights from Past MFG Excellence Awards

Check out MMA's Facebook album for more:  
[facebook.com/MIManufacturers](https://facebook.com/MIManufacturers)

