

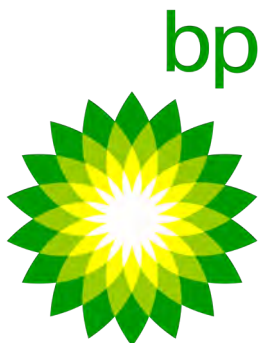


FEATURING
The Hall of Fame Inductions and
The Manufacturing Excellence Awards

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- 6 [About the IMA](#)
- 7 [Agenda](#)
- 8 [Keynote Speaker Introduction](#)
- 9 [2026 Manufacturers Hall of Fame Inductees](#)
- 10 [Hall of Fame Inductee - Indiana Gratings, Inc.](#)
- 11 [Hall of Fame Inductee - Infinity Molding & Assembly, Inc.](#)
- 12 [2026 Manufacturing Excellence Award Winners](#)
- 13 [Community Impact Winner - Hitachi Global Air Power](#)
- 14 [Emerging Leader Winner - Heather Griffith,
Goodwill Commercial Services](#)
- 15 [Manufacturing Talent Champion Winner -
Brian Evans, Aidex Educational Systems](#)
- 16 [Outstanding Woman Leader in Manufacturing Winner -
Samantha Bernotus, RHI Magnesita](#)
- 17 [Safety Champion Winner - Melanie Komasinski,
Kennedy Tank & Manufacturing Co., Inc.](#)
- 18 [Lifetime Achievement Award Winner-
Clay Barnes, MPI Corporation](#)
- 19 [Upcoming IMA Events](#)
- 20 [2027 IMA Legislative Reception](#)



ABOUT THE IMA

Formed in 1901, the Indiana Manufacturers Association is the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and the only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. The Indiana Manufacturers Association is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that creates, protects, and promotes quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana.

Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in America in wealth and jobs created, sustained, and supported. More than 50 percent of all employment in Indiana has some connection to manufacturing.

The staff of the Indiana Manufacturers Association are recognized experts in areas including tax, environment, labor relations, human resources, energy, workforce development, and healthcare.

The Indiana Manufacturers Association's mission is to enhance the ability of Indiana manufacturers to compete effectively and profitably in a local, national, and global economy.

IMA's strategies include:

- To be the primary representative of manufacturing interests before legislative and regulatory bodies at both the state and federal levels.
- To provide member companies with operational consulting services directly from Indiana Manufacturers Association staff and member company professionals.
- To promote and advocate for Indiana manufacturers to citizens, media, and government.
- To provide services that are determined to be of value to the membership.
- To inform member companies through research and education about issues affecting the manufacturing community.

10:00 a.m. Networking Reception (Exhibits)

**11:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks from
IMA Chair Paul Perkins,
Amatrol, Inc.**

11:40 a.m. Lunch

**11:55 a.m. Opening Remarks from IMA
President/CEO Andrew Berger**

12:00 p.m. Keynote by Mike Griffith

**12:35 p.m. Hall of Fame Inductions/ Manufacturing
Excellence Award Presentations**

1:30 p.m. Adjournment

KEYNOTE

Today's keynote speaker is Mike Griffith, President of Precinmac's Large Format businesses, leading Major Tool & Machine in Indianapolis, Indiana; Petersen, Inc. in Ogden, Utah; and Advance Manufacturing Co., Inc. and NECCI in Westfield, Massachusetts.



***Mike Griffith,
President
Major Tool & Machine***

Mike began his career with Major Tool & Machine in May 1994 after earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology from IUPUI through Purdue University. Over more than 30 years in manufacturing, he has held roles across machining, welding, assembly, inspection, and process engineering, giving him a firsthand understanding of the people, processes, and capabilities that drive complex manufacturing operations.

After progressing through numerous leadership roles, he was named President of Major Tool & Machine in January 2018. His leadership responsibilities expanded to Petersen, Inc. following its acquisition by Precinmac in April 2022 and, most recently, to Advance Manufacturing Co., Inc. and NECCI in 2026.

Today, Mike leads Precinmac's Large Format businesses with a focus on workforce development, operational excellence, collaboration, continuous improvement, and strengthening the advanced manufacturing capabilities to better support the growing manufacturing needs in the industries Precinmac supports.



INDUCTEES

Each October, manufacturers throughout the country celebrate Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY), a movement that serves to shine a spotlight on the impact of US manufacturers. The campaign provides an inside look to the next generation of makers and creators. Manufacturers, large and small, open their doors for tours, demonstrations, and visit local schools to promote careers in the industry. Students learn about modern manufacturing, the job opportunities available, as well as hear about the outstanding pay and benefits.

At the IMA, we love to celebrate manufacturing.

The Indiana Manufacturers Association's MFG Day Celebration (formerly the IMA Hall of Fame Luncheon) began in 2016 to showcase manufacturing companies that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to fostering a growing economic climate in Indiana.

Each year, we select and honor companies that have been instrumental in creating and maintaining a healthy, dynamic manufacturing environment in Indiana. Please congratulate the following companies.

2026 INDIANA MANUFACTURERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Indiana Gratings, Inc.
Martinsville

Infinity Molding & Assembly, Inc.
Mount Vernon



The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly inducts Indiana Gratings, Inc. (IGI) into the Manufacturers Hall of Fame as the company celebrates its monumental 50th anniversary in 2026. For five decades and across three

generations, IGI has built a lasting legacy of manufacturing excellence firmly rooted in Martinsville, Indiana. The company's inspiring journey began in 1976 with just two employees operating out of a former cannery on Douglas Street. Through decades of strategic growth, IGI has expanded its state-of-the-art facilities multiple times and has grown into a thriving business that employs over 50 dedicated team members, all while proudly remaining anchored in the local community where its story first began.

Today, Indiana Gratings is recognized as a premier, full-service fabricator of high-quality bar grating, stair treads, safety grating, and fiberglass products. The company serves a diverse range of customers across a wide variety of vital industries and structural applications.

Built upon an ironclad reputation for quality, reliability, and exceptional customer care, IGI seamlessly combines its decades of proven technical expertise with precision craftsmanship. Their extensive fabrication capabilities allow them to deliver customized solutions meticulously tailored to meet each individual client's exact needs. As IGI crosses this half-century milestone, the founding core values established at its inception—personal service, top-tier products, and dependable delivery—remain at the absolute heart of the organization. Indiana Gratings remains deeply committed to carrying these traditions forward by investing heavily in its workforce, serving its loyal customers, and contributing to the enduring strength of manufacturing throughout Indiana and across America.



The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly inducts Infinity Molding & Assembly, Inc. into the Manufacturers Hall of Fame.



Founded in 1982 and located in Mount Vernon, Indiana, this privately owned custom plastic injection molding company has been a driving force in the state's industrial sector for more than four decades. Over the years, Infinity Molding has earned an outstanding reputation for delivering top-tier molded components and high-value assembly solutions. The company serves a diverse and demanding clientele across a wide array of sectors, including the automotive, industrial, consumer products, and specialized medical markets.

Infinity Molding stands out by providing comprehensive manufacturing services that extend well beyond basic injection molding. Their elite capabilities encompass detailed product design support, expert tooling management, insert molding, overmolding, and seamless global supply chain coordination. By maintaining a continuous investment in advanced manufacturing technologies, workforce development, and lean operating practices, the company has successfully scaled into a highly trusted manufacturing partner serving customers throughout North America and across the globe.

The company's sustained success is built upon an unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and premier customer service. This legacy is powered by the dedication of generations of employees who have embraced a corporate culture rooted in integrity, continuous improvement, and deep accountability. Today, Infinity Molding & Assembly continues to strengthen Indiana's robust manufacturing heritage. By creating innovative engineering solutions, actively supporting local communities, and fostering long-term partnerships, they contribute significantly to the ongoing success of their customers and the economic vitality of the entire region.



2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

COMMUNITY IMPACT WINNER
Hitachi Global Air Power

EMERGING LEADER WINNER
Heather Griffith,
Goodwill Commercial Industries

**MANUFACTURING TALENT
CHAMPION WINNER**
Brian Evans,
Aidex Educational Systems

**OUTSTANDING WOMAN
LEADER IN MANUFACTURING WINNER**
Samantha Bernotus,
RHI Magnesita

SAFETY CHAMPION WINNER
Melanie Komaskinski,
Kennedy Tank & Manufacturing

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER
Clay Barnes,
MPI Corporation



COMMUNITY IMPACT WINNER

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HITACHI

The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly honors Hitachi Global Air Power with the Community Impact award at the Manufacturing Excellence Awards. Headquartered

in Michigan City, Indiana, Hitachi is a premier manufacturer of efficient industrial and portable compressed air solutions. The company's rich legacy began in Michigan City, Indiana in 1965 and was one of the first to execute rotary screw technology in air compressors.

Following Hitachi's acquisition of Sullair in 2017 and the 2023 renaming to Hitachi Global Air Power, the company has seamlessly blended global industrial innovation with a deep commitment to local stewardship.

Hitachi's profound dedication to Indiana communities shines through its transformative environmental and cultural initiatives. In partnership with the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) and other local stakeholders, Hitachi launched a massive native plant restoration project on its own Michigan City campus in 2025, converting nearly seven acres of turf grass into a thriving native prairie habitat. This sustainable landscape drastically lowers water usage, reduces emissions from lawn maintenance, and revitalizes critical pollinator populations.

Expanding its regional footprint, Hitachi continued its collaboration with LCSWCD and community partners to launch a five-year initiative in 2026. This vital project restores a crucial woodland ecosystem at Friendship Botanic Gardens in Pottawattamie Park, championing long-term environmental stewardship while enhancing the public experience.

Furthermore, Hitachi enriched local culture by donating a vibrant public mural to Michigan City, beautifully paying tribute to the area's rich agricultural and industrial history. Hitachi Global Air Power perfectly exemplifies how corporate citizenship and sustainable manufacturing can powerfully elevate a community.



EMERGING LEADER WINNER

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Heather Griffith

**Goodwill
Commercial
Services**

The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly honors Heather Griffith as the Emerging Leader at the Manufacturing Excellence Awards. Heather sets a powerful example of a rising trailblazer whose remarkable impact extends far beyond her daily responsibilities, truly reflecting the bright future of Indiana manufacturing. In less than a decade, she has completely transformed her life and career.

Advancing rapidly from an entry-level production role, she now serves as a Senior Quality Supervisor, where she successfully leads dynamic teams across multiple manufacturing facilities.

Heather's inspiring growth is defined not just by upward mobility, but by her unwavering commitment to continuous professional development. After earning her high school diploma through The Excel Center®, she aggressively pursued additional certifications, obtaining multiple industry-recognized credentials. These include Certified Production Technician, Lean Manufacturing, and rigorous ISO/AS auditing credentials. She has also completed extensive leadership training programs, demonstrating a clear dedication to operational excellence.

Overcoming significant barriers along her path, Heather's contributions to the industry are deeply matched by the profound example she sets for others. She actively serves as a vital mentor and inspiration to those entering the workforce, proving what is possible through perseverance and opportunity. Her unique journey perfectly highlights the critical role manufacturing plays in workforce development and second-chance employment. Through her resilient leadership, technical expertise, and passion for lifting others up, Heather embodies every quality of an emerging leader. Her spectacular trajectory highlights not only what she has accomplished today, but the significant contributions she will continue to make to Indiana manufacturing for years to come.



MANUFACTURING TALENT CHAMPION WINNER

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Brian Evans is recognized as the Manufacturing Talent Champion for his sustained, statewide commitment to strengthening Indiana's workforce through innovative education and industry partnerships. His impactful career began at Conexus Indiana, where he led a statewide high school internship program. By aligning local schools with manufacturers, Brian connected over 600 juniors and seniors to employers, providing invaluable exposure to modern, high-skill manufacturing career pathways.



Brian Evans
Aidex
Educational
Systems

Building on this success, Brian spent five years advising over 700 companies—80% in manufacturing—on modernizing their recruitment strategies. He pioneered initiatives to connect transitioning service members to the sector, successfully placing military talent into critical roles from industrial maintenance to frontline leadership. To support this pipeline, Brian collaborated with Ivy Tech Community College to build a tailored manufacturing management course for military veterans. This work successfully championed a scalable, skills-first hiring mindset across the state's industrial sector.

Today, at Aidex Educational Systems, Brian continues to scale his impact by directly aligning education with industry needs. Aidex supports over 300 Indiana high schools, advanced robotics labs, regional career centers, and higher-education institutions like Vincennes University and Ivy Tech to develop the next generation of manufacturing leaders. Beyond programming, Brian is a vital statewide voice at economic development forums and HR roundtables. He actively advocates for modern Career and Technical Education, reshaping outdated "shop class" perceptions to prove that advanced manufacturing is a critical driver of Indiana's economic future. By bridging gaps between students, educators, and employers, Brian's practical approach ensures a strong workforce for years to come.



OUTSTANDING WOMAN LEADER IN MANUFACTURING

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Samantha Bernotus
RHI Magnesita

The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly honors Samantha Bernotus as the Outstanding Woman Leader in Manufacturing.

Over a distinguished 20-year career specializing in Human Resources and Labor Relations, Samantha has consistently proved herself as a trailblazer and a strategic partner. She initially made her mark by helping transform a small hydraulic company, Industrial Resource Group (IRG), into a multi-million-dollar organization while closing high-value sales.

Today, she serves as the Head of People & Culture, Operations, North America for RHI

Magnesita. Throughout her journey across re-refineries, steel mills, injection molding, and refractories, Samantha has broken barriers as a female leader in a male-dominated industry. Renowned for being fair, consistent, and a powerful voice for her people, she has successfully negotiated critical union contracts with the USW, IBEW, and Teamsters.

Her relentless drive for growth extends into her academics as a fourth-year law student at Purdue Global, graduating at the end of this summer semester.

A former Northwest Indiana Influential Women's Association Finalist (2024), Samantha balances her executive responsibilities with deep community devotion. She serves as the PTO Board Treasurer at her daughter's school, the Fundraising Coordinator for Hobart Pop Warner, and a Lake County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), while regularly volunteering with the Hobart Food Pantry and the North Township Trustee Office. Samantha truly exemplifies modern manufacturing leadership, resilience, and community excellence.



SAFETY CHAMPION WINNER

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Indiana Manufacturers Association proudly honors Melanie Komasinski of Kennedy Tank as the Safety Champion at the Manufacturing Excellence Awards.

Overseeing safety for both the manufacturing shop and field divisions, Melanie has spent the past three years transforming the company's safety culture into an industry-leading standard. Her innovative leadership and proactive program implementations have yielded incredible, data-backed safety results.



Melanie Komasinski
Kennedy Tank &
Manufacturing

Under her watchful eye, Kennedy Tank has achieved exceptionally low EMR/MOD ratings over the last three consecutive years, proving that her methods drastically reduce workplace risk. Melanie's success stems from her structured, forward-thinking initiatives. She designs and executes full-scale Shop and Field Safety Days, bringing in third-party training experts to deliver targeted, comprehensive safety education. To modernize risk management, she introduced cutting-edge Safety Portal Apps that streamline the documentation of near misses and incident reporting, allowing leadership to analyze live safety data and actively neutralize hazards before they occur. Additionally, Melanie conducts rigorous monthly safety audits, providing direct feedback to employees. These audits educate teams on potential risk while celebrating and documenting the measurable improvements made from previous months.

Through these multi-layered strategies, Melanie has successfully built and sustained a deeply ingrained culture of safety. Her profound knowledge, operational excellence, and genuine care demonstrate to vendors, customers, and employees alike that she operates at the absolute peak of her field. Melanie truly exemplifies the spirit of a Safety Champion, ensuring every team member returns home safely each day.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNERS

2026 MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Clay Barnes
MPI Corporation

Clay Barnes was chosen as this year's Lifetime Achievement Winner for his decades-long drive for corporate excellence, industrial innovation, and workforce empowerment.

Clay's professional trajectory began in healthcare consulting with Fortune 500 giant Baxter Healthcare Corporation. He quickly transitioned into mid-market executive leadership after graduate school, executing a successful operational turnaround as the President and CEO of Blocksom & Co.

In 1995, Barnes took over the family business, assuming the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of MPI Corporation, an Indianapolis-based investment holding firm. Under his strategic direction, MPI managed a high-performing portfolio of manufacturing subsidiaries, including Small Parts, Inc., ABC Metals, Inc., HTI, and CH Ellis, LLC.

His crowning corporate achievement is steering MPI's transition into an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a culture-driven milestone that secured the legacy of the business by placing ownership directly into the hands of its workforce.

Beyond MPI, Barnes has lent his expertise as a long-time board member of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, serving as chair in 2010. Clay has also been a member of the Indiana Manufacturers Political Action Committee, helping to steer the association regarding issues affecting Hoosier manufacturers.

Clay's multidisciplinary approach to business is backed by three distinct degrees from Northwestern University, spanning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, a Master of Engineering Management, and an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Today, Clay is celebrated for a lifetime of leadership defined by operational brilliance and a deep commitment to shared prosperity. For Clay, people and relationships are paramount and the reason for his success.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THESE UPCOMING IMA EVENTS

Meet with industry peers in your region at our upcoming State of Indiana Manufacturing Regional Summit/Plant Tour at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, in Princeton, IN, on Oct. 6th. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes a presentation from Safety Management Group, as well as a networking lunch and plant tour. To register and get full details, visit www.indianamfg.com/2026-state-of-manufacturing-summits



Register to attend the IMA Policy Summit on December 8, 2026 from 101 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the IMA headquarters building. The event will be CLE eligible and include a luncheon speech on state finances. We'll also provide 3 topics - Tort Reform, Economic Development and Energy Issues. Cost for IMA

members is \$75. Non-members pay \$100. Register and get full details at www.indianamfg.com/2026-ima-policy-summit

Please participate in the 2026 Indiana Manufacturing Survey, which collects vital data points on statewide economic performance, workforce challenges, automation trends and more. Your input helps the IMA advocate on your behalf with state lawmakers/policy influencers; and the confidential benchmarking data collected will be used by business leaders across the state to map out future manufacturing strategies.

Survey participants receive free access to the final results. Results will be released at the Indiana Manufacturers Association's Legislative Briefing & Reception on January 19th, and results will be distributed to participants immediately following the event. Take the survey by visiting bit.ly/2026INMFGSurvey.





Legislative Briefing & Reception

**January 19, 2027
JW Marriott, Indianapolis**

Mark your calendars to attend the IMA's annual Legislative Briefing & Reception, set for January 19th.

This event is IMA's largest and most important event of the year, and an important part of our ongoing governmental affairs program. Your active participation in the event is what gives our advocacy team influence with state legislators and government officials.

The Legislative Briefing will begin at 3:30 p.m., and include a discussion of legislative and regulatory matters that will be considered during the 2027 legislative session.

At 5 p.m., members and legislators will connect over drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Legislative Reception. This is your chance to meet one-on-one with your legislators and elected officials.

Visit www.indianamfg.com/2027-legislative-briefing-reception for full details and registration!