



Eastman Kodak Co. among many honored for excellence in the Rochester region, Page 4



**Congratulations** to the finalists, winners, and all advanced manufacturers who make our region a great place to grow, innovate, and succeed!



Partnering with industry, academia, and government for the benefit of Finger Lakes Manufacturers.

# 2020 HONOREES & FINALISTS

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# FROM the EDITOR



he Rochester Business Journal is proud to partner with the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association to honor excellence in our region's technology and manufacturing sectors.

The Greater Rochester region relies on roughly 1,500 small and mid-sized manufacturers that together employ more than 62,000 people. While Rochester's erstwhile Big Three — Kodak, Xerox and Bausch + Lomb — still play a role in the local economy, RTMA and RBJ are also shining a spotlight on some of the lesser-known outfits that hold such a

significant place in the local economy and carry the respect of their peers in the industry. These awards also recognize some of the nonprofit organizations working to bolster the area's labor force.

To recognize some of the extraordinary work that local companies have done in response to the coronavirus pandemic, we added two award categories this year: COVID Innovation, Small Company; and COVID Innovation, Large Company. This year's awards were also given in: Manufacturing Innovation, Small Company; Manufacturing Innovation, Large Company; Powerful Partnership; Workforce Development, Training and Support; Workforce Development, Manufacturing Enterprise Division; Executive of the Year, Small Company; Executive of the Year, Large Company; Growth in Manufacturing; Rising Star; Apprenticeship; and Chairperson's Award.

Nominations were evaluated by a panel of experts and winners were announced in a safely distanced virtual ceremony on Nov. 17.

Sincerely, Ben Jacobs, Editor

# BUSINESS JOURNAL

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### HONOREE





JIM CONTINENZA CEO EASTMAN KODAK CO.

he Eastman Kodak Co. has made a long transition from its roots as a camera and film maker — and the Rochester-area's longtime largest employer — to become a respected and innovative worldwide leader in commercial printing.

Kodak, however, has been in the news in recent months for different reasons. The U.S. government's U.S. International Development Finance Corporation announced in July that it had signed a letter of interest to provide Kodak with a \$765 million loan to produce drug ingredients. Questions about how that deal was structured, and events surrounding it, have put the loan on hold.

Kodak will continue to move forward with expanding its existing pharmaceuticals business regardless of the outcome of the government loan.

The loan news followed some positive news In March, when Kodak reached agreement with New York state to supply tanker loads of isopropyl alcohol (IPA) to aid in the production of the free NYS Clean hand sanitizer.

"Kodak is committed to helping fight the spread of COVID-19," says Jim Continenza, Kodak's Executive Chairman and CEO. "We quickly mobilized to provide isopropyl alcohol for hand sanitizer and manufacture face shields as well as circuit boards for ventilators. In addition, we remain committed to leveraging our vast Eastman Business Park infrastructure, chemicals expertise and commitment to technological innovation to increase our domestic production of pharmaceutical ingredients, reducing foreign supply chain reliance."

At the same time, Kodak continues to introduce innovative products for the commercial print industry, launching six new products at a virtual event in June. It has about 2,500 patents related to printing and says its digital commercial presses are offset quality, and its process-free plate-making technology saves money and is environmentally sustainable.

Kodak says its water-based inks don't require a hazardous waste removal process because they contain minimal volatile organic compounds. The safer inks have enabled new uses in the food packaging and personal care industries.



In October, Kodak announced its new Kodak Prosper Ultra 520 Press was honored among five Buyers Lab (BLI) Outstanding Innovation awards in Production Print it received from Keypoint Intelligence. The awards were all for Kodak's industry-leading innovation in high-speed continuous inkjet technology.

According to Kodak, its award-winning Prosper Ultra 520, which was announced in June, is among the first to use Kodak's new Ultrastream writing system that gives the highest quality of its inkjet images at production speeds.

Its cost-effective water-based inks deliver offset-like quality at high speed and the lowest cost of operation in the industry, Kodak says, adding that it will help printers grow their businesses in many applications, including marketing collateral, direct mail and catalogs. Kodak also received awards for its Prosper Plus imprinting systems and its film optimizer agent for printing on flexible plastic substrates.

Kodak shared two other awards with its business partner, the Uteco Group — for the Uteco Sapphire Evo M Press, which employs Kodak Stream inkjet technology, and the Uteco Sapphire Evo W Press, which uses Kodak Ultrastream inkjet technology to open new possibilities in the production of flexible packaging, Kodak says.

"We at Kodak regard this quintet of awards as a phenomenal success and proof of Kodak's leadership in inkjet innovation," says Continenza. "These five awards, including the two shared with Uteco, provide customers expanded digital solutions to grow their business in new applications which will fundamentally transform digital commercial and packaging printing."

# JUDGES for 2020

## **KEVIN KELLEY**

Executive Director,

Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association

#### **MATT HURLBUTT**

President and CEO,

Greater Rochester Enterprise

### **TODD M. OLDHAM**

Vice President,

Economic Development, Workforce and Career Technical Education, Monroe Community College

#### **TYRONE REAVES**

Owner,

Truform Manufacturing; Founder, Young Adults Manufacturer Training Employment Program (YAMTEP)

### **JOSEPH M. RIZZO**

Manager of Economic Development, New York State Electric & Gas/Rochester Gas & Electric

## **DR. MICHAEL THURSTON**

Technical Director and Research Faculty,

Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology; Director, NY State Center of Excellence in Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing, RIT

#### TRICIA WITTREICH

Plant Manager, CooperVision.

### **BEN JACOBS**

**Editor,** RBJ









### APPRENTICESHIP

ean DeNeef was ready for a career change when a family member who was a pipefitter for Eastman Kodak Co. recommended pipefitting because of DeNeef's mechanical background. A family friend also recommended DeNeef try the apprenticeship program at Optimation, and DeNeef jumped at the opportunity.

"I hope that the rest of my time in the apprenticeship and throughout my career I can absorb as much knowledge from the older generation of pipefitters to help me appropriately handle situations," says DeNeef, an Army veteran in the second year of the program. "I am fortunate enough to work with several very knowledgeable journeymen who share as much information as you ask for and always look to help me strive to be a step above others. I hope further in my career I can be someone new apprentices look at as a good role model and that can help them achieve their goals."

DeNeef was a wheeled vehicle mechanic in the Army in Afghanistan and South Korea and is licensed to operate everything from forklifts and heavy machinery to tractor-trailers, says Steve Alvito, apprentice pro-



gram manager with Optimation, a mechanical and process engineering and design company based in Rush.

"Sean is an enthusiastic employee who is forward-thinking and inquisitive," Alvito says. He added that the journeymen have praised DeNeef, saying he asks many questions and shares ideas.

Scott Osher, DeNeef's supervisor and the pipe and mechanical trade manager, says DeNeef will do whatever it takes to get a job done, including driving a tractor-trailer when Optimation needs drivers.

"Sean has progressed through the apprenticeship program at a high level, and I see a bright future for him at Optimation."

-Brian Pappalardo

## HONOREE

# **%**

# LiDestri Foods and Drink & Career Start Workforce Management Group

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

areer Start Workforce Management Group and LiDestri Food and Drink have built a powerful employment partnership that has benefited thousands of people who struggle to find jobs.

The two companies have teamed up on entry- and mid-level opportunities at LiDestri for eight years. The companies say the program has helped many groups, including people recently incarcerated or in rehabilitation, and multigenerational families that have not had good-paying work options.

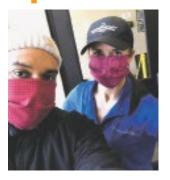
In the program, Career Start employs new LiDestri workers for the first 90 days and Career Start managers guide entry-level workers through the probationary period. LiDestri provides training in assembly, packaging, forklift operation and operating machinery.

The Catholic Family Center (CFC) is providing translation services to help Spanish-speaking applicants successfully join LiDestri. In August, more than 20 new hires attended three days of training in English and Spanish.

Kenneth Zablotny, the manager of language services at CFC, said one of its employees presented the dual-language program to the LiDestri human resources staff. CFC has been working with Career Start for nine years.

"The success of this program was possible because of the positive communication and cooperation between the Career Start and LiDestri





teams, as well as solid preparation and planning, and discussion meetings each day immediately following the training sessions," Zablotny says. "LiDestri and Career Start truly know how to work as a team, and are a shining example of a true, stellar partnership that in turn benefits so many."

Jim Morris, vice president of family services at CFC, credits Career Start founder Lindsay McCutchen.

"Lindsay is a unique person in the sense that she is an amazing entrepreneur but also has a soft spot for the people in our community who struggle with employment, bringing a compassionate, human perspective to her work."

—Brian Pappalardo

# HONOREE

# NYMAT Machine Tool Corp.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & SUPPORT PROVIDER

he NYMAT Machine Tool Corp. is known by manufacturers across the country as a top distributor for Haas Automation, one of the nation's largest machine tool builders. NYMAT sells and services computer numerical control (CNC) machines and accessories from its Haas Factory Outlet facility at NYMAT in Fairport as well as in Haas Factory Outlet stores in Olathe, Kansas, and St. Louis, Missouri.

NYMAT officials also stress hands-on manufacturing training by teaming up with the Haas Technical Education Center (HTEC) network to build the next generation of manufacturing employees. In the Rochester area, that has led to respected long-term workforce development programs that include a free online certification course and meetings with technical instructors from across the country to share best practices. The recruiting starts in regional high schools.

Brian Cregg, president of NYMAT, says his company's primary motivation for heavy investment in training is for the benefit to the industry and community.

"Our customers are local manufacturers, so we continue to grow when the manufacturing industry continues to grow," he says. "One of the biggest challenges our customers face is finding skilled talent to enable them to continue to grow. The workforce development efforts at NYMAT not only enable us to grow our team, but we also hope they



help connect people looking for good careers with an industry that is experiencing growing demand for people."

NYMAT's high school programs shut down in March because of the pandemic but resumed this fall with social distancing. They include Student Day, when STEM students from Finger Lakes region schools learn about manufacturing jobs and see machine demonstrations, and summer internships for students from regional BOCES programs. In March, more than 200 students from 11 school districts signed up for Student Day.

NYMAT also supports Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association apprenticeship programs and offers open house access to community college manufacturing programs.

Lenny Hall, a teacher at regional BOCES tech centers for the last 22 years, says in addition to training his students, NYMAT has helped the program in many other ways, including obtaining equipment, training teachers, and making repairs. "They never say no when I have asked for assistance."

-Brian Pappalardo

# CONGRATS!

To LiDestri Food and Drink for their Powerful Partnerships Award with Career Start! In a year with so many pivots and unknowns, LiDestri's workforce showed up ready to go every day, and haven't let up since.

SHOUT OUT TO MEGAN MEYERS KELLY ON HER RISING STAR NOMINATION AND TO OUR FEARLESS LEADER, STEFANI LIDESTRI, NOMINATED FOR EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR!



LiDestriFoodandDrink.com



ason Aymerich faced some tough choices earlier this year as JN White began to see and feel the impact of the pandemic. Weighing furloughs as businesses were shutting down, Aymerich, the president of the Perry-based company, worked with his team and employees to do what they do best — innovate in the face of challenges.

JN White quickly designed, manufactured, and delivered multiple products to support the first responders fighting to save lives. Employees tirelessly retooled JN White manufacturing equipment and its supply chain and processes to create personal protective equipment that includes the one-piece SplatterGuard Protective Face Shield.

The face shields went from design to shipment in 15 days, and JN White donated many to nursing homes, first responders and hospitals.

Other innovative products have included the SnaggleClaw touch-free door opener that also helps people safely use public keypads and touch-screens, as well as washable masks and comfort mask extenders.

JN White employees also quickly created a website and e-commerce platform for its PPE products at www.splatterguard.com, and have seen a great demand for its new products.

The ISO 9001:2015 and ITAR-certified Wyoming County company, which has customers worldwide for its custom-made membrane



switches, graphic overlays, and custom labels for industrial, medical, electronics, government, and retail markets, also made employee safety a priority as it developed and manufactured its new products.

Employees who did not need to be on site were sent home for remote work, and rotating schedules, masks and face shields were provided to workers needed on site. Plexiglass dividers where possible provided additional protection.

"I am so grateful to be part of an organization that thinks on its feet and consistently does the right thing regardless of the difficulty," Aymerich said earlier this year. "JN White continues to innovate where the market has a need. Providing solutions in the PPE space furthers the firm's commitment to helping our country stay strong."

—Brian Pappalardo



s the pandemic struck in the spring, health care providers around the world realized they would need to change the way they perform many of their X-rays. Instead of bringing patients to X-ray facilities, they would need to take the X-ray technology to the patients.

RC Imaging Inc. of Hilton, a global supplier of patented imaging accessories, services and radiography products, immediately accepted the challenge as a partner to many of the digital radiography manufacturers around their world.

It was all-hands-on-deck at RC Imaging as employees designed, manufactured, tested and delivered accessories that helped health care professionals to respond faster to emergencies. RC Imaging says its products always provide low-dose and comfortable solutions for patients.

To deliver products so quickly, RC Imaging bought a fourth computer numerical control (CNC) machine to help guide the busier production schedule, staffed a second shift, and worked closely with its material vendors to ensure the supply chain could help RC Imaging respond in days, not weeks.

Eric Bostley, president of RC Imaging and the son of founder Harry







Bostley, said from March to May, RC Imaging produced and shipped digital radiography equipment that was more than 120 percent over its 2019 volume.

Bostley said he has always been proud of his employees' ability to react quickly to changing market conditions. But their work during the pandemic was even more impressive.

"They embraced the new safety procedures put in place to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable work environment," he says. "We are a small company, and social distancing, wearing personal protective equipment, and our own disinfection procedures took some getting used to but soon became second nature considering the severity of the situation."

-Brian Pappalardo



# COVID INNOVATION,

iDestri Food and Drink hasn't missed a day during the pandemic. The Fairport-based food and drink manufacturer, an essential business during the emergency, listened and responded when customer demand for hand sanitizer increased quickly.

"More people started requesting hand sanitizer from us specifically, and we were sending them in the direction of folks that we knew that were making it," says Stefani LiDestri, the co-CEO of LiDestri Food and Drink with her brother, John. "As the demand continued to increase, we knew that it would be the right thing to shift one of our spirits manufacturing lines so it was capable of making hand sanitizer."

Stefani LiDestri's 8-year-old daughter, Vanni, even pitched in. She created the hand sanitizer slogan — "A bit of hope and rainbow in every drop" — and the rainbow symbol on each bottle.

In June, the company announced it would donate \$1 million in hand sanitizer to school districts, medical facilities, first responders and cultural groups.

LiDestri has also added employees to its 900-person Rochester-area workforce during the pandemic, citing high demand for all products and new customers. Company leadership also established internal task



forces and made immediate changes in the facility to ensure a safe workplace, the company says.

"For more than 45 years, LiDestri Food and Drink has lived by a core value established by our chairman and father, Giovanni LiDestri, to do the right thing," the CEOs told employees in the spring. "What we do at LiDestri Food and Drink matters, and now more than ever, our communities are counting on us to continue operations."

LiDestri has also come through for its community. It provided each employee with jars of sauce and local restaurant gift cards — to help those owners who were in danger of closing because of the pandemic.

LiDestri has also donated tens of thousands of jars of sauce to senior living facilities, the Veterans Outreach Center and Foodlink.

-Brian Pappalardo



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# WINNER entury Mold Co. Inc. LARGE COMPANY

entury Mold Co. Inc. knows plastics, so when the pandemic struck, the Rochester-based plastics manufacturer knew what to do when health care workers complained about plastic face shields that were too small.

"Most of the time, when doctors are administering to patients in the operating room, they're bending over, so to protect the neck is very important," says Ron Ricotta, president and chief executive officer of Century Mold, which makes parts for the automotive industry.

Century Mold worked with Rochester Regional Health (RRH), its first customer, to design larger, safer face shields that improve the coverage of mouths and chins and tuck under chins, and also addressed a shortage of face shields at RRH.

Terry Hodge, executive vice president of Century Mold, says the company had a prototype ready in 24 hours and was producing thousands of masks in less than two weeks. Century Mold says it usually takes the company as many as 15 weeks to produce new custom parts.

"Not only were we able to meet the needs of Rochester Regional



Health," says Rocco Pizzarello, Century Mold tooling manager, "we were able to improve the design to better protect the medical professionals who wear the equipment on a daily basis. We had the team and ingenuity to make it happen overnight."

Century Mold also donated face shields to the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, which gave the free shields to barbers and hair stylists.

"I take pride in the fact that so many people gave so willingly — some working 20-hour days — to make this happen," Ricotta says. "It's a miracle."

-Brian Pappalardo



EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, **SMALL COMPANY** 

lthough Jason Aymerich, president of JN White, has only been at the custom design and manufacturing company since October 2019, his impact has been profound.

"During his tenure, he has created and implemented projects that have improved efficiency, increased sales, and increased profit," said Noel Bittner, JN White's vice president of marketing. "He has accomplished all of this during one of the most difficult economic times in recent history."

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aymerich quickly expanded the company's typical manufacturing production of membrane switches, membrane overlays, graphic overlays and custom labels, to personal protective equipment (PPE) as well.

"With his engineering and packaging background we designed a single piece die cut Splatterguard™ Face Shield," said Ken Boss, the company's vice president of sales. "This product provided much needed personal protection for our frontline caregivers and helped drive sales,

keeping people employed here."

Aymerich donated some of this PPE to area EMS agencies owned by CHS Mobile Integrated Health Care, Inc., which he is a board member for. It is just one of the many community interests Aymerich, a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business, supports. He is



of chief executives. "Jason onboarded dozens of new members since he began serving on the board, including more female CEOs, which has been a strategic priority for the chapter," said Stephanie Marchioni, chapter director of YPO Empire State.

### FINALIST



# Jeannie Brockmyre Absolute Precision, LLC

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, SMALL COMPANY

ne of Jeannie Brockmyre's favorite parts of her role as CEO of Absolute Precision LLC is sharing good news with her employees. "I love to sit in a staff meeting and tell the team, 'This is the feedback from our customers — they loved the parts they received; they loved everything in the box," said Brockmyre, who has led the precision machining company since 2003.

Her husband, Bryan Brockmyre, founded Absolute Precision LLC in Houston, Texas, in 1989 and the company's operations were moved to Wolcott, in Wayne County, 10 years ago. Absolute Precision manufactures precision metal and plastic components for several industries including energy, optics, medical, aerospace, defense and fluid control.

Brockmyre's background is in customer service, and while it's a strength she brought with her to Absolute Precision, she also brought a strong drive to learn new things.

"I completely immersed myself in being an owner/operator," Brockmyre said. "I'm learning more and more about the industry all the time

and handle everything from customer service and human resources to logistics shipping and receiving."

Brockmyre is also very active in the community that Absolute Precision now calls home — she sits on the board of the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency, is a past president and Rotarian



of the Year with the Wolcott Rotary, and has also been president of the Wolcott Chamber of Commerce.

Said company president Bryan Brockmyre: "Jeannie is a member of FAME (Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise) and has been on the pipeline committee working to promote advanced manufacturing to area school districts, teachers, counselors and students."

-Caurie Putnam



# CONGRATULATIONS

to our L3Hamis Technologies
Workforce Development Team
for being selected as a finalist
for the RBJ Technology
and Manufacturing Awards

Littents Technologies is an agin global correspons and definion technology transvoter, delivering end-to-end solutions that ment containers' retector-cultion needs. The company provides solveneous deliverse and communical technologies access sir, bank, see, space and option demants. Littents has approximately \$15 billion in consol reverse and 48,000 employers, with restrainers in some fine 500 countries.

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### FINALIST



# Chad Carta, XLI Manufacturing and Golf Products Wire EDM

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, SMALL COMPANY

ven before the COVID-19 pandemic hit New York in earnest, 2020 was a trying year for Chad Carta, president of XLI Manufacturing, a contract manufacturing business specializing in machined, turned, sheet metal and assembled components and Golf Products Wire EDM, a wire electrical discharge machining manufacturer.

In February there was a fire at the Rochester-based XLI, which caused unrepairable water damage to a two-week-old CNC machine.

"Although there was an approximately two-week downtime, Chad and the employees rallied and not a single order deadline was missed," said Denis Jeffries, assistant vice president of Genesee Regional Bank. "A month after the fire the COVID pandemic began and Chad and the team quickly pivoted to focus on the medical industry, as there was significant need for new equipment."

Despite these challenges, both companies are on pace to post year over year revenue growth, and Carta has continued to invest in cutting

edge equipment and employee training to ensure optimal manufacturing capabilities.

Carta, a graduate of Hamilton College and the University of Rochester's Simon Business School, acquired both XLI Manufacturing and Golf Products Wire EDM in late 2018 in separate transactions.

"In 2019, the first full year of operations under Chad, both companies accomplished significant growth through expanding their

customer base and adding new manufacturing capabilities," Jeffries said. In addition to building his companies, Carta builds houses for community members in need with Habitat for Humanity's annual Leaders Build Series.

—Caurie Putnam



CHAD CARTA
PRESIDENT
XLI MANUFACTURING
AND GOLF
PRODUCTS WIRE
EDM

# 99

WINNER

# Stefani LiDestri LiDestri Food and Drink

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, LARGE COMPANY

an a leader be both powerful and humble? Wegmans CEO Danny Wegman raised this question about Stefani LiDestri, co-CEO of LiDestri Food and Drink, and surmised: "Stefani has shown it's possible."

LiDestri was appointed co-CEO of the family business, alongside her brother, John, in early 2020. Her father, Giovanni LiDestri, who remains the company's chairman, started out in business as a bottle washer at Ragu. Today, LiDestri Food and Drink produces more than 3 million items daily in its Rochester plants and the company continues to grow.

In 2021, LiDestri will break ground on a \$51 million international expansion with Belgian company CROPS and recently launched 55 Farmers, a brand with Australian farmers committed to organic farming.

LiDestri strives to provide a healthy environment for her employees too, via leadership coaching, which she teaches to groups and individuals.

"I've been incredibly blessed with the opportunity to sit with the people that actually do the work, the people that keep the materials coming

in the door, keep the product flowing down the line and the folks that get it on the truck," LiDestri said.

Another passion of LiDestri's is Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut, which provides free camping experiences for seriously ill children. LiDestri volunteered as a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp counselor when she was a teenager and now co

counselor when she was a teenager and now co-chairs its largest annual fundraiser — the New York Big Apple Bash Circus, which raised close to \$2 million in 2019.

"What's even more impressive than the dollars she's raised is how Stefani has channeled her passion for camp to inspire others," said James H. Canton, CEO of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. "She's not only a hands-on leader, but her heart is always all-in, all the time, and in any endeavor she's involved."

—Caurie Putnam



CO-CEO LIDESTRI FOOD AND DRINK

STEFANI LIDESTRI

# FINALIST

# Jeffrey T. Schlarbaum IEC Electronics Corp.

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, LARGE COMPANY

Ithough he is a California native, Jeffrey T. Schlarbaum, president and CEO of IEC Electronics Corp., is fiercely committed to the Rochester region.

"Jeff has had several chances to move his operation from our area to the Southwest," says Alexander R. McClean, a partner with Harter Secrest & Emery LLP. "Jeff has remained true to this area, has worked with local and state officials to keep IEC here and growing."

Schlarbaum, who received his MBA from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, has ridden the waves with IEC, a provider of electronic manufacturing services to advanced technology companies, and come out on top.

He first joined the company in 2004 as vice president of sales and marketing. In 2010, he was named company president and IEC landed on Forbes' 100 Best Small Companies in America in 2011 and 2012. Soon after, he left to lead LaserMax Inc. and the company spiraled,

prompting Schlarbaum to return as CEO in 2015.

"It was from this point Jeff began a renaissance for the company," said James Jenkins, general counsel of Transcat Inc. IEC had a net loss of approximately a half million dollars in 2014; fast forward to 2019 and they reported a net income of \$4.8 million.

Also in 2019, IEC broke through an internal \$40 million quarterly revenue threshold and the company recently constructed a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Newark in Wayne County.

"It's not just dollars and cents with Jeff," Jenkins said. "One need only take a stroll through the company's manufacturing floor to see that Jeff's employees respect and admire him."

-Caurie Putnam



JEFFREY T. SCHLARBAUM PRESIDENT & CEO IEC ELECTRONICS CORP.

FINALIST

# Wendy Smith Optimation Technology, Inc.

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR, LARGE COMPANY

endy Smith's promotion to chief operating officer of Optimation Technology Inc. in April 2020 came at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York. But this timing only highlighted the adaptability and leadership skills that have made Smith shine in plant operations and design and engineering services management the past thirty years.

"It is always amazing to me how certain people thrive in challenging times, 2020 has been unprecedented in terms of challenges," said Dave Helkenn, director of MF Capital and Strategic Supply at Corning Incorporated. "Despite these challenges, Wendy's focused support and professionalism has been superb."

Smith began her career at Corning as a melting engineer and joined Optimation, a manufacturing firm, in 2003. Among her past positions: ceramics engineer, quality manager and vice president of engineering. As COO she leads both the engineering and trade areas of the company.

"At Optimation, Wendy has secured millions of dollars in glass indus-

try projects for the company, utilizing the relationships she has built throughout her career," said company president William Pollock.

A member of the Board of Directors for Compeer Rochester and past president of the Rochester Engineering Society, Smith is passionate about mentoring. She recently served as a papelist for a Women in STEM ev

served as a panelist for a Women in STEM event at her (and one of her daughter's) alma mater: Alfred University.

"I have seen first-hand how she, on her own time and without fanfare, works with other women to develop the additional skills they may need to be impactful in today's business world," Helkenn said. "Her passion for growing talent, especially female talent, is a model that should be put in place in every business."



WENDY SMITH
COO
OPTIMATION
TECHNOLOGY, INC.

# Select Fabricators Inc. GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING

anandaigua-based Select Fabricators Inc. is the leading U.S. manufacturer of radio frequency and electromagnetic interference shielded tents and enclosures. The company produces more than 750 customized products for users in the government, defense, automotive and technology industries. The good works of 19 full-time, local employees is represented in this nomination of Select Fabricators.

High school classmates at McQuaid Jesuit, Tim Ansaldi and Andrew Pluta took over the wheel of Select Fabricators in January 2018 as co-owners and have since established significant growth in top line revenue and profitability. In 2018, with Ansaldi as CEO and Pluta as president, the company set a revenue record, which they broke again in 2019. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic and the company's sudden shift to manufacturing medical masks for health care workers at little to no profit, Select Fabricators expects its 2020 revenue to be in line with last year's.

Brian Hedges, a partner at Mengel Metzger Barr & Co. LLP, attributes this revenue growth to Ansaldi and Pluta's focus on their employees,



customers, partners and community service.

"In the short time Tim and Andrew have been owners, they have changed a culture to one of collaboration and communication with their employees," Hedges said.

In terms of customer engagement, he notes: "Tim and Andrew have put the company on a significant growth trajectory since 2018. A short list of customers include: Google, Facebook, Qualcomm, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security."

-Caurie Putnam



aunched in 2011 as a spinoff from Impact Technologies, during that company's acquisition by Sikorsky Aircraft, Rochester's Poseidon Systems is now one of the most innovative and fastest growing Industrial IoT companies in the nation. Poseidon's principal expertise is in fluid diagnostics, specifically metallic wear debris monitoring and oil condition monitoring. The good works of 26 local employees, up from seven in 2016, is represented in this nomination of Poseidon Systems, which also welcomed five engineering, computing and marketing coop students from Rochester Institute of Technology and Binghamton University in 2020.

"Poseidon Systems has considerably grown in recent years, especially 2019," said Stephen Steen, the company's vice president of Industrial IoT. "Poseidon has developed and worked to strengthen our presence in other markets we are less developed in, including mining and maritime." Additionally, Poseidon Systems' partnership with Gearbox Express,



North America's largest independent supplier of gearbox assemblies for the wind turbine industry, was launched in 2019. This gearbox was the first to include a direct from factory installed, integrated oil monitoring system that eliminates the need for periodic oil sampling.

Revenue at Poseidon Systems has increased exponentially each year, too, from a little over \$1 million in 2015 to \$5.4 million in 2019.

"While our business was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown, we are still on track to have significant growth in 2020," Steen said.

This growth has not gone unnoticed nationally — in April 2020 Poseidon Systems was recognized as one of Americas' Fastest Growing Companies by the "Financial Times."



N White has come a long way since it was founded in 1960 as a screen-printing company by World War II veteran James Neel White. His son, Randy, is the owner and CEO.

Today, the ISO 9001:2015 and ITAR-certified company has the winning touch with customers worldwide for its custom design and production of membrane switches, graphic overlays, and custom labels and decals that provide integrated solutions for industrial, medical, electronics, government and retail markets.

In the last four years, the Perry-based company with about 90 full-time employees has remained cutting edge by investing millions in equipment for manufacturing, communication, compliance and metrology.

JN White's design team is always focused on improving the end user experience. The team recently used 3D modeling in the development process to deliver parts for a reengineered integrated segment display that met its customers' precise design and manufacturing specifications for an existing product.

JN White said its design team's final product was a great improvement for end users. The 3D modeling process was used to prepare multiple virtual prototypes that allowed JN White designers to work closely with



the customer's design team and ensure that other product components would work seamlessly with the display changes for the end users.

In the end, the reengineered product greatly improves the end user experience, according to JN White. It creates displays and interface buttons that are easier to read — even if users are working in the brightest work areas.

In addition, JN White's changes stripped away the existing product's sharp, exposed edges that were causing it to lift and separate, and its circuit board innovations allowed the customer greater efficiency in bringing more electronic elements from the base part of the unit to the front panel.

-Brian Pappalardo



LEDWorks is a small, private Rochester company that has grown into a global leader in the development and production of organic light-emitting diode (OLED) lighting technology. OLEDWorks was founded 10 years ago by former Kodak scientists.

While light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are single points of light, OLEDs respond to an electric charge by lighting up a thin material. OLEDs proponents say ultra-thin, lightweight soft and sleek OLED lights are more energy efficient than in the past.

Michael Boroson, chief technology officer at OLEDWorks, says that in the last two years, the company had seen the demand for its products increase significantly. It needed sophisticated technical support in sales, marketing, and research and development, and hired Kathleen Vaeth as director of OLED User Experience.

Vaeth, a chemical engineer, is a former senior lecturer at the Robert Frederick Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Cornell University, and she started her career as a scientist and project leader in the Kodak Research Labs, where OLEDs were created.

"I'm excited to be meeting with designers and customers to help them to understand the potential benefits of OLED lighting," Vaeth says. "I'm



also looking forward to engaging with lighting technologists to explore the new directions and design capabilities that OLED lighting can provide."

Shortly after being hired, Vaeth signaled a possible new market — recreational vehicles, which have gained new interest from families seeking safer travel.

"Lighting design is integral to the comfort and function of any space. With the leaps and bounds that the RV space has come in other areas of design, it's only fair that lighting now receive the same level of attention," she wrote. "At OLEDWorks, we think that this is next frontier for designers to address and continue the revolution of the indoor RV space."

—Brian Pappalardo



atavia-based HP Hood LLC recently reached a milestone when it produced its 100,000,000th gallon of fluid product. That's quite a feat, considering the Batavia plant, which is one of Hood's 13 manufacturing plants nationwide, only started production in 2018.

The Batavia facility is an extended-shelf-life fluid production plant, producing mainly Lactaid and almond milk, located at the Agri-Business Park. Originally built in 2013 as a 334,000-square-foot yogurt manufacturing plant, the idle facility was purchased by Hood in 2017, which went to work immediately on its dramatic transformation.

"The company has since invested more than \$200 million in expansions, improvements, and operations to transform it into a world-class 448,000-square-foot facility," said Kathy Allen, operations finance manager.

In 2019 the technologically advanced plant underwent a 444,000 square foot addition of an automated storage and retrieval system refrigerated storage warehouse that can store 24,000 pallets.

"As such, Hood is able to load a truck in a shorter time period than cold storage warehouses," Allen said. "The plant is currently preparing



to install an additional ultra-high-temperature processor and more paper ultra-high-temperature filling lines."

There are 385 employees at the Batavia plant, which is a Safe Quality Food certified facility, and has received New York State Grade A milk approval. The plant, which provides direct shipping to customers, receives more than 50 milk tankers weekly from local farms and releases more than 400 outbound trucks per week.

Last year, Batavia's HP Hood plant received the Genesee County Partner of the Year Award and the ProFood World Manufacturing Innovation Award. Another achievement for the Batavia plant: it has been a zero waste to landfill facility since it started production in 2018.

-Caurie Putnam



ery game-changing innovation in modern printing history, over 1,200 current employees are not content resting on their laurels. "We continue to drive innovation and commercialization of disruptive printing technologies, investing approximately \$25 million a year in print technology, doubling down on digital print and delivering the products customers need to strengthen productivity and growth," said Kurt Jaeckel, the company's director of worldwide communications. "Kodak has always had the scientific horsepower to drive more innovation than competitors, holding approximately 2,500 printing-related patent assets in our IP portfolio."

hile global technology company Eastman Kodak created most ev-

Among the company's newest product advances is the Kodak Prosper Ultra 520, announced in June 2020, which is the first press to use Kodak's Ultrastream writing system and maximizes productivity by printing across a wide range of substrates using the industry's most versatile, top quality and cost-effective water-based inks.

Kodak's Inkjet Inks are eco-friendly, water-based, contain minimal



volatile organic compounds and do not require a hazardous waste removal process.

"Our water-based inks are safer for people and the environment, enabling new applications in food packaging and personal care," Jaeckel said.

And, in this time of increased remote working due to COVID-19, the company also recently released Prinergy On Demand, a cloud-based printing workflow platform backed by the secure network infrastructure of Microsoft Azure. Prinergy On Demand "modernizes and maximizes a printer's workflow investment with increased security, reliability, efficiency, and remote work flexibility," Jaeckel said.

# Optimation Technology, Inc

MANUFACTURING INNOVATION, LARGE COMPANY

ithin its 100,000-square-foot fabrication facility in Rush, Optimation Technology Inc. fulfills not only projects of large-scale, international importance, but those of small startups with little more than an idea.

"In some cases, the inventor has nothing more than a patent and a dream when they come to Optimation," said Meghan Hayes, the company's director of marketing. "Our passion at Optimation is to grow the manufacturing base in the United States."

Two hundred employees complete over 1,000 innovative projects annually, designing and fabricating manufacturing lines — such as a one for biofuels company Byogy Renewables. For Byogy, Optimation created a system of reactors and stills that converted farm waste to ethanol, and then the ethanol to jet fuel for a project for the upcoming summer Olympics in Tokyo.

In 2019, the company designed, fabricated and installed a pressure test system for SubCom, the leading supplier of undersea communication equipment (SubCom is currently building Google's new subsea cable).

And, recently, Apeel Sciences, which developed a plant-derived technology that maintains produce quality and extends shelf life, hired



Optimation to design and build its first commercial application systems.

"We ran a process with several EPC firms throughout the U.S. and ultimately chose Optimation due their strengths in design, workmanship, software, and project management," said Dr. Louis Perez, Apeel Sciences' vice president of technology. "It is difficult to find EPC firms that have all of those capabilities in-house, let alone expertise."

Optimation also showed innovative spirit during the COVID-19 pandemic by working on many projects and products for clients, including being part of the engineering team that developed the grant proposal which helped Eastman Kodak win a \$765 million government loan under the Defense Production Act (that project is currently on hold).

-Caurie Putnam

# FIN A

## FINALIST

# American Packaging Corp.

MANUFACTURING INNOVATION, LARGE COMPANY

istory meets modernity at American Packaging Corp., a flexible packaging company with 251 employees, in Chili. This family-owned company specializes in flexographic and rotogravure printing, tandem and single head capabilities, and adhesive lamination of film, paper and foil, as well as pouch and bag fabrication.

Clients for its innovative products span industries, including food, personal care, medical, pharmaceutical and industrial.

"American Packaging Corporation is fueled by pioneering new approaches and rapidly adapting to changing industry and customer demands," said Megan Manzari, public relations supervisor at Dixon Schwabl.

One example of this innovative approach may be found in your pantry or top-desk drawer. Recently, the company was part of the Hershey Company's redesign of Reese's Everyday Assortment Packs.

"Reese's Everyday Assortment leverages large coverages of bold colors to drive shelf appeal and rich imagery that communicates snacking and sharing as part of the innovative design," Manzari said about the award-winning packaging the company designed.



For this project, American Packaging used a combination of the latest technologies and processes, including a distinctive printing process known as APC HPE Flexo, to create the packaging while using only eight colors.

"APC HPE Flexo starts with a world-class plate-making system and pre-press media processes that combines with on-press expertise that delivers consistent, measurable and repeatable print output — all critical elements of high-quality packaging," Manzari said. "HPE Flexo is a unique arrangement of talent and tools that American Packaging Corporation deploys to elevate the flexography print experience beyond what has become standard."

### WINNER



# Megan Myers-Kelly, LiDestri Food and Drink

RISING STARS

or Megan Myers-Kelly, director of research and development for food and beverage at LiDestri Food and Drink, shopping at a grocery store is a personally rewarding experience.

"I am excited when I see products that we manufacture on the shelf, knowing that families are able to purchase products that are high quality, reliable, safe, and offered at a good price," said Myers-Kelly, who joined the food and beverage manufacturing company in 2013.

The LiDestri plants in Rochester alone produce 3 million food and drink items daily and Myers-Kelly's creativity is behind many of them.

"Megan was instrumental in the founding of the company's Innovation Center," said Stefani LiDestri, company co-CEO. "The center houses test kitchens, where the research and development team creates and tests recipes for LiDestri and private label partners, such as Newman's Own and Wegmans. She also played a key role in LiDestri's implementation of high-pressure processing to their capabilities."

Myers-Kelly was also instrumental in helping launch Cask & Crew Whiskey and the line of Recipe 21 varietals, LiDestri said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Myers-Kelly helped LiDestri pivot production capabilities of its spirit line to produce hand sanitizer for



Rochester-area camps, school districts, medical facilities and more.

Among her volunteer endeavors, Myers-Kelly sits on the advisory committee for Genesee Community College's Food Processing Technology degree program.

"Megan helped out considerably in design of the program and courses," said Greg Sharpe, instructor of food processing technology/human nutrition at the college. "She is always willing to speak to students and always willing to give a tour of the great LiDestri plant. Megan has been an inspiration to young women who are in a STEM program."

—Caurie Putnam



ortney Ross began her journey at OptiPro Systems in 2006 as a co-op student. She made such an impression at the Ontario-based company that she was hired full time in 2008 as a design engineer after graduating with her master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

"It is Cortney's exceptional problem-solving skills and willingness to help her co-workers on a daily basis —in areas ranging from engineering design support to ERP system support and customer support — that has led to the start of a successful career at OptiPro," said company president Mike Bechtold.

Her first task at the company was to help develop and improve the portfolio of OptiPro's optical grinding and polishing CNC machines.

Ross is currently the optics product line project manager at OptiPro, which is a world leader in designing and manufacturing grinding, polishing and metrology machines for the precision optics and advanced ceramics industries.

"As a project manager, I get to work with so many different people and parts of the company as well as our wonderful customers," Ross

said. "It's fun and interesting to understand all the pieces of the OptiPro vehicle that keeps us running and moving forward."

Bechtold credits Ross with playing "a key role in every major improvement initiative at OptiPro" during her 14 years at

during her 14 years at OptiPro, including: restructuring engineering documentation management, implementing ERP systems, and leading projects with positivity and professionalism.

"Having Cortney on our team, we are confident in our ability to perform and advance even during these uncertain times," Bechtold said.





hat began nine years ago as a fruitless Google search by Matthew Bain for Black-owned businesses to support in Rochester turned into an innovative, grassroots company called BOB Rochester.

Bain, founder and chief information officer, built an online directory of Black-owned businesses in the Rochester region and is now working to spread the platform to other cities.

"That search gave birth to the idea to create a system of record of Black-owned businesses and a platform for the community to support these businesses," said Bain, a graduate of Edison Tech and the College at Brockport. "A lot of energy around it has been grassroots, and we've been growing at a phenomenal pace as of late."

Black-owned businesses from myriad industries, including dining, education, health care and automotive, can apply to be listed in the user-friendly directory for free. Ultimately, Bain hopes to create similar





platforms to support entrepreneurs from other groups traditionally underrepresented as business owners, such as LatinX and LGBTQ. In addition to leading BOB Rochester, Bain works full time in software management as a technical project manager and is very active in community service.

"Volunteerism is really in my spirit," said Bain, who is a board member of the Housing Council at PathStone.

Stuart Mitchell, retired president and CEO of PathStone and current executive director of the PathStone Foundation, has known Bain for many years professionally and personally (he is Bain's father-in-law).

"He gives his nights, weekends and every free waking minute to BOB Rochester," Mitchell said. "This is a huge passion for him and is a really important effort to introduce a larger audience in our community to Black-owned businesses."

-Caurie Putnam



s the grandson of Accede Mold & Tool Co. founder Alton Fox, Corey Fox grew up in and around his family's Rochester-based advanced manufacturing business.

RISING STARS

Fox's own career at Accede began in 2007 when he went through the apprenticeship program at the company during his senior year at Webster Thomas High School. He became a mold-maker and was named mold-making manager of the company in June 2020.

"Corey has demonstrated leadership and mold building excellence through his hands-on experience building high-cavitation, stack, and two-shot molds including rotating cube platforms," said Camille Sackett, the company's director of business development and engineering support.

Fox is instrumental in leading Accede's design and manufacture of complex and precision state-of-the-art plastic injection-molds, which are used to produce parts primarily for the consumer packaging sector and medical and diagnostics industry, including for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.



"In my new role I am assisting all of the current mold makers in keeping organized and keeping the flow of work through the building streamlined," Fox said. "Every decision we make has to be what is best for the mold. My main focus will be just that."

Also at the top of Fox's priorities list as a manager: quality, efficiency and customer satisfaction.

"Getting the customers the best product we can produce and in a timely manner is always what is best for everyone involved," Fox said.



or the first time in two decades, global technology company Eastman Kodak has apprentices in Rochester again.

The company, which currently has over 2,500 employees, launched a New York state Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program, in partnership with the Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association, in 2020.

The Kodak Apprenticeship Program had 250 applicants to its first cohort; 19 of which were selected to apprentice as a maintenance mechanic, electrician, electro-mechanical technician, instrument electrical mechanic, pipefitter, machinist or maintenance machinist, or building maintenance mechanic.

"Some of those applicants were internal candidates, which could lead to new career opportunities for them in the future," said Robert Coyne, director of workforce development for the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association. "The apprentices sign on for a two to five-year program, giving them on-the-job training with experienced Kodak employees and related course work through Monroe Community



College and other educational providers."

On January 24, Ed Hurley, Eastman Kodak's general manager of industrial films and chemicals, welcomed the apprentices to Kodak Center.

"The apprentice program is an important element of our strategy to continue to grow the film and chemicals business in the future," Hurley said. "We have a very capable and experienced skilled trades workforce, but many of those people are in the later stages of their careers. We need to pass that knowledge and capability to the next generation of workers, and the apprentice program provides a very formal, structured way to make that happen."

-Caurie Putnam



t has only been a year since Harris Corp. and L3 Technologies Inc. merged to become L3Harris Technologies Inc., but the global aerospace and defense technology innovator is already taking big steps when it comes to workforce development.

The company, which provides advanced defense and commercial technologies across air, land, sea, space and cyber domains, has 48,000 employees, with more than 3,800 here in Rochester.

Earlier this year, the company established the L3Harris Technician Training Program to help meet an ongoing need for more troubleshoot technicians.

"Our program combines both the strengths of formalized education and on-the-job training to foster a comprehensive learning environment for the troubleshooting of circuit boards and subassemblies," said Brian McNamara, senior human resources manager for L3Harris Technologies.

The company partnered with Monroe Community College and



Rochester Institute of Technology to recruit and train students as parttime troubleshoot technicians, thus creating a pipeline of skilled and well-educated technicians who can demonstrate a practical application to their theoretical learnings from school.

September 2020 saw the first cohort of students graduate from the L3Harris Technician Training Program and move into full-time trouble-shooting technicians at the company.

"We are proud to continue the development of this program as it cultivates a mutually beneficial relationship between L3Harris Technologies and local educational institutions," McNamara said.



he philosophy at ArcWorks, a contract manufacturer in Rochester, is that diverse and inclusive companies make for more innovative, engaged, and happy teams.

One hundred and fifty-five employees, 93 of whom are clients of the Arc of Monroe, are living proof of these values.

"ArcWorks provides pre-vocational skills to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Melissa Mayo, ArcWorks' business development manager. "The integration between assembly operators and our people we support has created a beautiful environment. With unlimited capabilities due to training and a great atmosphere, ArcWorks has served the community and customers in many ways."

The company is fully integrated, meaning that it employs people with disabilities alongside those without disabilities. Mayo calls this integration a "united alliance." Inside ArcWorks' 85,000 square foot space, this cohesive team of workers offers such services as electromechanical assembly, soldering, wire harness and cable assembly, low to high volume kitting, machine and hand packaging, and order fulfillment. The compa-



ny also has ISO Class 7 (10,000) clean rooms for medical, laboratory and pharmaceutical assembly, kitting and packaging needs.

Among the many companies that contract with ArcWorks is Third Eye Design Inc. David Werner, president of Third Eye Design, told the Rochester Business Journal last year why he chose to contract with ArcWorks.

"As an individual I believe it's important to give back. As the CEO of a corporation I am so thrilled to be able to do it in the way that we're doing it, partnering with ArcWorks to have them do our packaging and fulfillment."

-Caurie Putnam

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Keeping pace with technology is essential to the success of any enterprise We understand that manufacturers must invest in technology to gain efficiencies in production, throughput, margins and thus their bottom line. And we know this cannot stop at the shop floor to ensure success. We provide the advice and tools necessary to efficiently manage cash flow and equipment financing as part of a sound strategic plan.

In May 2020, Evans Bank completed its acquisition of FSB Bancorp, Inc., the parent company of Fairport Savings Bank. In August, Rochester customers were introduced to the



Evans Bank name and signature orange logo when the five area branches were renamed and billboard and television and radio commercials began airing in the market. Rochester native Andrew Fornarola, who has over 40 years of experience in financial services, serves as Rochester Regional President.

As a full-service commercial bank, Evans Bank has assembled some of Rochester's most experienced and respected bankers to form its team, with over 120 years of Rochester commercial banking experience and community service among them: Lynn Ryan, Terry Kelley, Tom Dunning, Amanda Shisler, Tim Johnson, Jim Bilotta and Amanda Boron.

Evans serves businesses of all sizes, with an emphasis on Commercial and Industrial Lending, Commercial Real Estate Loans, Equipment Financing, Mergers and Acquisitions Financing and Cash Management.

Led by industry veteran Marc O'Hearn, Evans Government Banking team has the experience and expertise to understand the statutes governing public entities and provides a flexible, locally serviced suite of financial solutions, including collateralized depository services, Cash Management services and government insurance.

Through its strong retail operation with 20 branches throughout Western New York, Evans Bank provides high-touch and personalized customer service experience with all the expertise and products available at the big banks. The Evans brand focuses on a great customer experience as a differentiator and competitive advantage.

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Evans Investment Services provides non-deposit investment products, such as annuities and mutual funds.

We invite you to stop by one of our Rochester branches or visit https://evansbank.com.

# About LiDestri



of food, beverages and spirits, supplying over 80 million cases of product each year. LiDestri's core competencies include producing aseptically filled, hot filled, cold filled and retorted products in glass and plastic containers for retail and food service customers.

Over the last five years, the company has added new capabilities, including fresh

iDestri Food and Drink is a premier contract and private label manufacturer

has added new capabilities, including fresh processing equipment, a high- pressure pasteurization machine, carbonated slim can production lines, and automated variety packaging equipment. LiDestri is currently expanding its aseptic beverage capability to include low acid.

LiDestri, an entrepreneurial family-owned

company, established more than 45 years ago by Giovanni LiDestri, who today is the company's chairman, is headquartered in Fairport, NY. LiDestri operates five SQF, level-3- certified, state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Fairport, NY; two in Greece, NY; Fresno, CA; and Pennsauken, NJ. Under the leadership of Stefani LiDestri and John C. LiDestri, Giovanni's children who serve as

Co-CEO, LiDestri currently employs more than 1,400 people.

LiDestri was recently awarded the Powerful Partnership with Career Start Workforce Management Group in the 2020 Rochester Business Journal Manufacturing & Technology Awards. Stefani LiDestri was also named a 2019 Rochester Business Journal Women of Excellence. Stefani serves on the board of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, which is LiDestri's number one philanthropic partner.

LiDestri Food and Drink lives by 4 core values - Do the Right Thing, Act with Grit, Be Creative, and Make an Impact. These values are grounded in the company's tagline "Where Tradition Meets Innovation".

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

In person or virtually we are committed to celebrating excellence in the business community. Plan to join the celebration.

















### December 7, 2020

2021 Nominations open: December 8, 2020

The ICON Honors awards recognize Greater Rochester business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.



#### May 11, 2021

Nomination Deadline: February 26, 2021

The Health Care Heroes Awards recognize excellence, promote innovation and honor the efforts of organizations and individuals who are making a significant impact on the quality of health care in our area in a variety of medical roles.



### June 16, 2021

The Rochester Business Journal will present it's 3rd annual summit to learn strategies to implement innovative processes to create a team focused on diversity and inclusion.



#### June 21, 2021

Nomination Deadline: March 12, 2021

The Excellence in Law Awards honor members of the legal community with four distinguished awards: Top Woman in Law, Up & Coming Attornays, Civil Legal Services Awards and Unsung Legal Heroes.



#### June 21, 2021

Nomination deadline March 21, 2021 The Daily Record and Rochester Business Journal will honor the Greater Rochester Area's standout corporate counsels for the critical role they play in making their companies successful.



### July 21, 2021

Nomination Deadline: April 23, 2021 The Rochester Chapter of Financial Executives

International and the Rochester Business Journal recognize financial leaders who have made outstanding contributions to their organizations and to the Greater Rochester community during the past year.



### July 28, 2021

Best Companies to Work for in New York is a calabration of the state's ailte employers, who have proven that they know what it takes to create an environment where people love to come to work.



#### September 28, 2021

The Rochester Business Journal and United Way Greater Rochester will host it's 7th annual summit that will include seasoned and emerging women leaders coming together for an afternoon of career development, networking, and more.



### October 27, 2021

Honoring Individuals and companies who are changing the landscape of the Rochester region through design, construction, project management, lending, innovation and more. These individuals and their companies are creating jobs, building healthy spaces, helping families and companies achieve their dreams, and leading the way toward growth and prospetty for the community.

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