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Auburn Manufacturing, Inc., was recently presented with the Heroes of Manufacturing Award, a national award presented to only two manufacturers chosen from across the country each year.

MECHANIC FALLS, Maine: The National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership recently awarded Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. with the Heroes of Manufacturing Award. Maine MEP nominated Auburn Manufacturing for this award because of their positive impact on the Maine economy and their contribution to the community.

“We are thrilled that Auburn Manufacturing has been chosen for this award. They are a strong representation of the kind of world-class manufacturers we have here in Maine.” explains Maine MEP, President Larry Robinson.

Auburn Manufacturing, Inc.

Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. (AMI) is an industry leader in the manufacture of advanced textiles for extreme-heat environments. AMI began making safe substitutes for asbestos textiles in 1979 and now leads the industry in innovation and safety. AMI was one of the first to adopt performance-based, third-party testing to improve quality and safety for workers in hot environments. AMI manufactures their products here in Maine and currently sells their products to 30 countries worldwide.

AMI contributes to the Maine community in many ways. As a member of the National Council of Textile Organizations and the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Textiles and Clothing, and most recently an Advisor to the Board of EXIM Bank, Kathie Leonard, President of AMI, represents Maine and New England on global trade issues.

Kathie Leonard is also known for taking care of her people. AMI offers competitive wages and empowers employees to offer their expertise and engage in process improvements. All employees receive the training that they need to learn and grow in the company.

Auburn Manufacturing is a certified Women’s Business Enterprise, they were awarded Maine International Trade Center’s 2019 Exporter of the Year and the 2017 Maine MEP Manufacturer of the Year.

Heroes of Manufacturing Award

Each year The Heroes of Manufacturing award is presented to two manufacturers chosen from all of the manufacturers across the country to represent the many, leaders, workers, and manufacturers in plants across the country who strive to improve lives by making their communities and economies better and stronger.

“Maine MEP’s relationship with AMI has spanned many years and we have enjoyed being part of their incredible advancement through the years. They are always looking to improve and advance. We have worked with them on strategic planning, quality systems, process improvement and staff training. Their commitment to the community and their employees makes them a joy to work with. Wayne Messer, Maine MEP, senior project manager.

Nicole Ausherman explains *“At NIST MEP, we celebrate another type of hero. The small and medium-sized manufacturers who are an integral part of their communities and often work day and night to make, develop and innovate with little to no recognition. These are our Heroes of*

American Manufacturing. Our goal is to share the passion behind these companies and their dedicated workers, as well as their positive impacts—not only on manufacturing in their state, but in the U.S. overall.”

The award includes the development of a video to highlight the passion behind these companies and their dedicated workers, as well as their positive impacts—not only on manufacturing in their state, but in the U.S. overall. The Heroes of American Manufacturing video series represents the breadth of U.S. manufacturing—from 3D metal printing of complex products and designing transformers for the electric power industry to developing a revolutionary motorcycle clutch technology. The video created for AMI video is available to view on the NIST MEP Heroes of Manufacturing page: <https://www.nist.gov/mep/mep-national-network/manufacturing-videos>

“Just being named a ‘hero’ was exciting enough for us,” says Kathie Leonard, President of Auburn Manufacturing. “But their awesome team of video crafters worked their magic to capture the core of what we do every day: we make tough textiles that resist heat and fire! It isn’t magic – it’s hard work. But it’s worth it to know our small team of Mainers help keep people around the world working safer!”

About Maine MEP

Maine MEP is a comprehensive resource available for manufacturers in Maine. Our network of experts help manufacturers get started, address workforce challenges, develop and maintain quality management systems, build leadership, implement innovations, meet safety requirements, prepare for critical transitions, optimize productivity and grow profits. For information on the Maine MEP program, please visit www.mainemep.org, or phone 1-800-MEP-4MFG.

Photo from left to right:

Rhonda Cox, Executive Assistant, American Manufacturing, Inc

Kathie Leonard, President, American Manufacturing, Inc.

Wayne Messer, Senior Project Manager, Maine MEP