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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2016 Champions of Maryland Manufacturing Announced Featuring Ten Carroll County Champions

Westminster, December 8, 2016- [The Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland\(RMI\)](#) has recognized Maryland's private and public sector champions of manufacturing for their outstanding commitment to the manufacturing industry and their communities. The inaugural 2016 Champions of Maryland Manufacturing Yearbook featured 145 Champions of Maryland Manufacturing coming from every Maryland County and Baltimore City. Carroll County, MD is host to ten Maryland Manufacturing Champions. Champions are companies, people, agencies, schools or organizations that promote a positive image of Maryland Manufacturing.

RMI reached out to people statewide to solicit nominations in seven different categories. The categories were accelerating innovating products and processes, providing visionary leadership, engaging companies in culture change, creating products that improve lives, contributing to their communities and engaging STEM students in manufacturing careers. A ceremony was held on November 30, 2016 recognizing the ten honorees at Martins in Westminster, MD.

"Carroll County enjoys a diverse manufacturing sector which provides great jobs, community support, industry expertise and leadership. Over the last 18 months we have added over 1,000 jobs; we have five new or expanding manufacturers adding another 550 jobs in the pipeline. Now that is phenomenal Carroll County manufacturing growth!" declared Jack Lyburn, Carroll County Department of Economic Development Director.

The 2016 Carroll County Champions of Manufacturing are great stewards of the positive outreach being performed by the counties businesses, Department of Economic Development, and communities. For more information on the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland and to view the 2016 Yearbook, use the link below.

[Regional Manufacturing Institute Champions of Manufacturing](#)

The 2016 Champions of Carroll County Manufacturing are:

ACCELERATING PRODUCT OR PROCESS INNOVATION

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

[Advanced Thermal Batteries, Inc.](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

ATB, the U.S. division of ASB Group, a world-wide leader in the manufacturing of thermal batteries for the Defense Industry, moved into a new, larger Westminster manufacturing facility. This multi-million dollar expansion is the result of a decade of extensive work with the Defense Industry's Prime Contractors, the U.S. Government and research organizations to develop and produce advanced thermal batteries for the military's leading-edge weapon systems. The advanced technologies requirements for missiles, rockets, smart bomb weapon systems and emergency backup systems will continue to grow and the move will create high technology jobs, ultimately doubling the workforce.

[Shelter Systems Limited](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

For 40 years Shelter Systems Limited has grown to become one of the nation's premier manufacturers of wood structural building components. Lean manufacturing principles are incorporated in their plant design. Lumber moves in one direction - from the Lumber Storage and Retrieval System it travels from saw to assembly, out the door and on to a delivery truck without ever crossing a different job. With a regional market extending nearly 250 miles in every direction, their 120,000-squarefoot lean manufacturing facility produces high-quality roof trusses, open-web floor trusses and engineered wood products to supply builders throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

[Stanley Black & Decker](#) Nominated by Mac Mottley, Sparks Dynamics

Stanley Black & Decker is a world-leading provider of tools and storage, commercial electronic security and engineered fastening systems, with unique growth platforms and a record of sustained profitable growth. The Hampstead plant is Stanley Black and Decker's only Maryland manufacturing plant, providing powder metal components used in thousands of power tools assembled throughout the world. Focusing on energy reduction and sustainability, the plant partnered with Sparks Dynamics to implement a process innovation project based on the Industrial Internet of Things ReMaster Cloud Monitoring and Analytics system. This project is anticipated to reduce compressed air energy expense by over 20%.

[The Strouse Corporation](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

Since 1986 The Strouse Corporation has been designing and developing converted solutions using pressure sensitive adhesives. As a 3M Preferred Converter of pressure sensitive adhesive and flexible materials, Strouse solves simple and complex problems for the aerospace, automotive, electronics, industrial, medical, and military & defense industries. Strouse operates the most sophisticated equipment in their industry at their Westminster plant to achieve superior product performance backed by a quality management system registered to ISO 9001:2008 standards. President Susan Chambers has been certified as a Women's Business Enterprise since 2005.

CREATING PRODUCTS THAT IMPROVE OUR LIVES

[FR Conversions](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

FR Conversions purchased a 150,000 square foot plant at West Branch Trade Center in Westminster. The company specializes in the conversion of vans for wheelchairs. New contracts for products prompted the company's search for a larger location. A ribbon cutting was held in April to celebrate the grand opening of this \$20 million project. Due to the high demand of its product, the company expects to employ over 400 people in the next few years. FR Conversions "makes mobility affordable". They focus on safety and have transformed the lives of individuals who use their vehicles daily.

[Knorr Brake Company](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

Knorr Brake Company's North American Mass Transit Braking Systems headquarters is in the Westminster Technology Park. Knorr Brake Company (KBC), a division of Knorr-Bremse, AG moved to Carroll County in 1991. The company manufactures braking, door, and HVAC systems for the mass transit rail industry and expanded into a new 240,000 square foot facility in 2013. KBC employs over 400 people at the Westminster location. When you ride mass transit you can thank Knorr Brake Company for the smooth comfortable ride – you will get on/off safely, ride in comfort and stop smoothly at your destination.

[Lehigh Cement Company](#) Nominated by Denise Beaver, Carroll County Economic Development

Lehigh is a leading North American producer of gray, white and specialty cements, aggregates, ready-mix concrete and concrete products. When mixed with water, cement binds together sand, gravel and crushed stone to form concrete, one of the most durable and widely used construction materials worldwide. Working together to build our communities® is their tagline - you have to look no further than the Carroll Hospital Center parking garage as one example where Lehigh's cement contributes to a strong foundation. And, Lehigh Cement has served as a foundational business, employer and community contributor in Union Bridge, Maryland, for over a century.

CREATING A POSITIVE CULTURE OF CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Bob Barazotto, Keyser Engineering Nominated by Mike Galiazzo, Regional Manufacturing Institute

Bob Barazotto was the lead engineer on RMI's successful energy program with the Maryland Energy Administration. Bob taught us to get manufacturers engaged successfully in energy efficiency upgrades through three essential requirements: mutual respect, honesty and high-caliber performance. Bob exemplifies all three and more. His technical leadership in serving 60 companies in the program resulted in a cumulative energy savings commitment over \$2 million. He assisted companies in receiving \$1.5 million in MEA grant awards, \$1.3 million in MEA Lawton Loans and \$556,000 in BGE rebates. Bob Barazotto exemplifies the best of the best and the true Champion spirit!

ATTRACTING AND ENGAGING STEM STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING

[Carroll County Career & Technology Center](#) Nominated by Vicki Mahr, Beynon Sports Surfaces

The specific programs in the "Engineering" department at the CTC introduce students and teach them skills in preparation for a variety of manufacturing careers. In the Drafting program, students can become AutoCAD Certified. Welding has the ABC Apprenticeship program. PLTW Engineering is college- level Design & Development Engineering courses, and the Manufacturing and Machine Technologies program is one of the first high school programs in the nation to be certified by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills. These

programs are “hands on” and work together cross-functionally to finish projects, giving students a true experience in the world of manufacturing.

[Partnership and Inspiration for Engineering Education and Entrepreneurship \(PIE3\)](#) Nominated by Rose Young, PIE3

PIE3 is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for extra-curricular STEM activities to as many students as possible, K-12, in the greater Carroll County area. The flagship program is the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 2199, the Robo-Lions. These high school students were the genesis for PIE3, which now supports more than 20 teams for over 100 kids of all ages. The FRC Team, along with other teams, shares their excitement for STEM at libraries, schools and community events all year, raising awareness and encouraging future engineers.

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