

2017 Women of Excellence

in Metalforming & Fabricating

BY MATTHEW GAUTHIER, EDITORIAL INTERN

For the second year in a row, *MetalForming* is proud to acknowledge the women who drive our industry forward with our 2017 Women of Excellence in Metalforming and Fabricating honors. The honorees—26 winners and 11 recipients of honorable mention—have demonstrated dedication to creating an industry that remains inclusive, innovative and productive, even as it constantly changes.

The winners profiled in this section arrived in our industry through different paths. Some were born into it—second- and third-generation owners from metalforming families. Others fell in love with the sciences or sales, which naturally drew them here. Some simply found themselves needing a job, and fell into the right industry at the right time.

Based on their nomination information and the quotes they provided for this section, no matter how these honorees entered the industry, all have found it to be exciting and worthwhile—an industry that offers challenges and rewards in equal measure and is, most definitely, a place for women.

"*MetalForming* magazine is proud to shine the spotlight on and recognize these industry leaders—women who not only contribute to the success of their metal-fabricating and metalforming companies, but who also inspire other women to follow in their footsteps," says Brad Kuvin, *MetalForming* publisher/editorial director. "Their level of skill, expertise and commitment to excellence

is exactly what our industry needs in order to remain globally competitive for decades to come."

MetalForming's editorial staff selected the winners based on criteria including longevity, accomplishments and intangibles. We received entries from many qualified, deserving individuals spanning the manufacturing landscape, which made the selection process difficult to say the least. *MetalForming* thanks all of the nominees and those who nominated them.

The drive to increase manufacturing opportunities for women and recognize their skills long has been part of the Precision Metalforming Association's (PMA)

mission, most notably through its client organization Women in Manufacturing (WiM).

"The women featured in this issue are powerful examples of extraordinary manufacturing careers and outstanding female talent," says Allison Grealis, WiM president and founder, and vice president of Association Services for PMA. "I hope that these women's stories and accomplishments encourage other young women and men to pursue careers in this industry."

Please join PMA, WiM and *MetalForming* magazine in congratulating our 2017 Women of Excellence Award winners!

Women in Manufacturing: Support, Promote, Inspire

Women in Manufacturing (WiM), with more than 850 members, is a national association dedicated to supporting, promoting and inspiring women who have chosen a career in the manufacturing industry. The group encourages the engagement of women who want to share perspectives, gain cutting-edge manufacturing information, improve leadership and communication skills, participate in sponsoring programs, and network with peers.

WiM encompasses manufacturers of all types and welcomes individuals from every job function—from production to the C-suite—and is inclusive to men. Members benefit from exclusive access to regional and national programming, networking opportunities, bimonthly professional-development webinars, a customized employment tool called WiMWorks, online discussion communities, the quarterly IMPACT e-newsletter, and a robust searchable directory.

For more, visit www.womeninmanufacturing.org.

The logo for Women in Manufacturing (WiM) features the lowercase letters "wim" in a stylized, lowercase font. The "w" and "i" are connected, and the "m" is separate. The letters are in a dark green color.The logo for Women in Manufacturing (WiM) features the lowercase letters "women in manufacturing" in a sans-serif font. The words "women in" are stacked above "manufacturing". The letters are in a dark green color.

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Judy Hadley

***Customer Service and
Quality Systems Manager
Precision Engineering, Inc.
Uxbridge, MA***

Judy started at Precision Engineering 22 years ago as an administrative assistant; today she serves as a senior manager, overseeing the company's quality and environmental-management systems and serving as a direct point of contact for all major customers. Judy's nominator attributes her rise to "self-motivation, a continual willingness to learn and a never-say-no attitude." Without any background in engineering, Judy learned how to read blueprints and has become an expert in ERP and MRP systems. Production employees routinely seek out Judy's assistance in ensuring that routers, work orders and other production-related documents are completed accurately.

Judy has achieved all of this while simultaneously raising her two children.

"I cannot think of a more deserving woman," says her nominator.

"Manufacturing is fast-paced and frequently changing, and a career in manufacturing puts you on the front lines in maintaining the success and sustainability of our country. Often thinking differently than men, women are well-suited to finding fulfillment in manufacturing's many rewarding career opportunities—creating, problem-solving, multitasking and adding to our industries in new and unique ways."