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THE ALLIANCE FOR WORKING TOGETHER 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Mentor, OH (03/14/2022) – The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Foundation hosted the AWT Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 14th, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the recently opened, state-of-the-art AWT Transformation Training Center. The AWT Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for Northeast Ohio manufacturing companies, elected officials, educators, and community leaders to come together to celebrate *working together* to promote rewarding manufacturing careers and announce future manufacturing workforce initiatives.

Teresa Simons, AWT Executive Director, and the AWT Board welcomed Ohio’s Secretary of State Frank LaRose as the keynote speaker to share with AWT members and guests remarks about resources for Ohio’s small businesses and election initiatives at the State level. LaRose highlighted all that Ohio manufacturing has to offer by giving credit to the many companies that make Ohio’s products.

AWT recognized outgoing Board Members, Ryan Ellis, formerly of Lincoln Electric, and Jen Rhone, Plant Manager at Avery Dennison. Teresa also welcomed the newly appointed member, Phillip Fulgenzi, of Lincoln Electric, to the AWT Board of Directors.

2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of AWT. In early 2002 Roger Sustar, CEO of Fredon Corporation, convened a small group of manufacturers to discuss common issues, challenges, and ways that they could help one another. The core mission of the organization, ***promoting rewarding careers in manufacturing***, stems from these early meetings. In 2012, the AWT Foundation became a 501-(c)3 non-profit. Since then, the AWT Foundation has grown and has over 500 manufacturing, community, and educational members, placed more than 1,000 students into manufacturing careers, exposed over 300 5th and 6th-grade students to careers in local communities and facilitated tours of manufacturing facilities for over 1,200 students, teachers, and parents.

(more)

This past year was an incredible year for the AWT Foundation. By exposing young people to manufacturing early, we continue to strengthen the future of our region. AWT's expanded training capabilities through the opening of the Transformation Training Center ensure the ability to upskill the current workforce and bring new workers to the industry.

Teresa Simons concluded the meeting by honoring AWT Founders Roger J. and Judy A. Sustar with a commemorative plaque, thus dedicating the building in honor of Roger and Judy's commitment and service to the future of manufacturing in Northeast Ohio.

Photos and videos from the event are posted at: <https://thinkmfg.com/2023-annual-meeting/>. If published, photo credits: Caronchi Photography, video credits: AWT Foundation

[Frank LaRose](#) - [Ohio's Secretary of State](#)

[Teresa Simons](#) - [Alliance for Working Together Foundation](#)

[Roger Sustar](#) - [Fredon Corporation](#)

For more information on the AWT Annual Meeting, please contact Teresa Simons at teresa_simons@thinkmfg.com or 440-462-1995.

About Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Foundation

The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Foundation is a 501-c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting rewarding manufacturing careers. AWT is a coalition of education, business, social services, and community leaders focused on aligning the learning system with the needs of the business community to support economic growth. As a membership organization, we work together to introduce students to manufacturing and connect businesses to engage with their potential future workers. Based in Northeast Ohio, AWT and its members work toward the sustainability of manufacturing in our community. For more information about AWT, please visit www.thinkmfg.com

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