

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



Contact: Teresa Simons
Executive Director
AWT Foundation
440-462-1995
teresa_simons@thinkmfg.com

THE ALLIANCE FOR WORKING TOGETHER 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Mentor, OH (02/20/2024) – The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Foundation hosted the AWT Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, from 8:30 am-10:00 am at the state-of-the-art AWT Transformation Training Center in Mentor, OH. 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 Director of Development, Lydia Mihalik, as the keynote speaker to share with AWT members and guests remarks about how manufacturing continues to be the heart of Ohio's economy, and how important it is that things are *Made in Ohio*.

AWT recognized outgoing Board Members, Mike Mulroy, formerly of Eaton, and Rossmald Herredia, Senior Director of Capital Operations at STERIS. Teresa also welcomed the newly appointed members, Meghin Lombardi, Operations Manager at Eaton, and Jessica Moles, Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at STERIS, to the AWT Board of Directors.

2023 marks the 21st 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 and exposed more than 2,500+ students to manufacturing careers in our local communities through camps, events, facility tours, and school visits.

(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.

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

[Lydia Mihalik](#) - [Ohio Department of Development](#)

[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

###