

May 05, 2008

Silver Crescent Award Winners Announced Today Prestigious Award Recognizes Manufacturing Excellence in South Carolina

Today, some of the state's top manufacturing operations, Floralife, Inc. of Walterboro, BorgWarner TorqueTransfer Systems of Seneca, and Milliken and Company of Spartanburg were recognized with the prestigious Silver Crescent Awards for Manufacturing Excellence as part of the Salute to Manufacturing awards luncheon at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Presented by the Silver Crescent Foundation and the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the prestigious Salute to Manufacturing was attended by more than 400 business leaders and elected officials. The Salute to Manufacturing has been held for 12 years in Greenville, and this is the first time the event was held in Columbia. Senator Lindsey Graham provided the keynote address, and Congressman Gresham Barrett presented BorgWarner its award.

"These companies represent the best of the best in South Carolina," said Gary Foster, president of Automation Engineering Corporation and chairman of the Silver Crescent Foundation. "All of these companies play vital roles in the communities where they do business, providing valuable jobs, contributing to the tax base and giving back to their communities by supporting charities and mentoring young people. They are positive reminders of why manufacturing is still the cornerstone of South Carolina's economy and we salute their ongoing success!"

Judged by an independent panel, the three winning companies' nominations demonstrated their manufacturing excellence and commitment to workforce enhancement, and described their community involvement, including efforts to support local educational opportunities and resources. A more detailed overview on each of the winners is attached.

In addition to the Silver Crescent Awards, winners of the 2008 Student Design Challenge were recognized and presented awards by Congressman Joe Wilson and Superintendent of Education Jim Rex. Anisa Snipes, a fifth grader from Fairforest Elementary School in Spartanburg, was the elementary school recipient. Viral Desai, a seventh grader from Fairforest Middle also in Spartanburg, took top honors for the middle school category. And Jennifer Fortner, a sophomore at Byrnes High School in Duncan, won for the best design by a high school student.

At the conclusion of the Salute, Dr. Charles Gould, president of Florence-Darlington Technical College announced that the 2009 event will be held in Florence at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technology.

Student Design Challenge winners:

Elementary School – Calendar Design – sponsored by SC Research Authority
1st place – Anisa Snipes, fifth grader, Fairforest Elementary School, Spartanburg
2nd place – Skyler Tallman, fourth grader, AR Lewis Elementary School, Pickens
3rd place – Amanda Rickert, fourth grader, Charles Townes Center, Greenville

Middle School – Tote Bag Design – sponsored by CPM Federal Credit Union
1st place – Viral Desai, seventh grader, Fairforest Middle School, Spartanburg
2nd place – Davina Felder, eighth grader, William J. Clark Middle School, Orangeburg
3rd place – Eric Woody, eighth grader, Hickory Tavern Middle School, Gray Court

High School – T-shirt Design – sponsored by Automation Engineering Corporation
1st place – Jennifer Fortner, tenth grader, James F. Byrnes High School, Duncan
2nd place – Ariel Black, ninth grader, West-Oak High School, Westminster
3rd place – Martin Guzman, tenth grader, Beaufort-Jasper Academy, Ridgeland