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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2019

**South Florida Manufacturers Association Unveils the 2019 Runners-up and Finalists Honored at their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition of Excellence Ceremony**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – On March 13, 2019, The South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA) announced its Runners-up and Finalists for their esteemed Employees and Manufacturers-of-the-Year Award. Forty-eight (48) employees and sixteen (16) companies from Miami-Dade County through the Treasure Coast were unveiled. Companies were judged on Leadership, Strategy, Customers, Measurement, Knowledge Management, Workforce, and Operations. For more information on the event, please visit [www.sfma.org/roe](http://www.sfma.org/roe).

The 2019 Runners-up and Winners for South Florida Manufacturer-of-the-Year are:

**Manufacturers 1 – 25 Employees**

- ❖ HABCO of Boca Raton – **Winner**
- ❖ Concept II Cosmetics LLC – **Runner-Up**

**Manufacturers 26 – 75 Employees**

- ❖ Kira Labs – **Winner**
- ❖ Expert Shutter Services Inc. – **Runner-Up**

**Manufacturers 76 – 200 Employees**

- ❖ Tellus Products – **Winner**
- ❖ Propulsion Technologies International - **Runner-Up**

**Manufacturers 201+ Employees**

- ❖ Lockheed Martin, Rotary & Mission Systems (Palm Beach) - **Winner**
- ❖ Cordis, A Cardinal Health Company – **Runner-Up**

The finalists were selected from among over 80 nominated companies. The SFMA will feature some of the finalists in webinars, plant tours, and events that share best practices to benefit Florida's manufacturing sector.

The 2019 Runners-up and Winners for South Florida Employee-of-the-Year are:

**Administrative**

- ❖ Carol Fleming, S.V. Microwave – **Winner**
- ❖ Julia Leblanc, Sonny’s Enterprises – **Winner**
- ❖ Jill Holtz, Decimal Engineering – **Runner-Up**

**Engineering and Information Technology**

- ❖ Jessica Rattner, Lockheed Martin. – **Winner**
- ❖ Gaganbir Johal, Trividia Health – **Runner-Up**

**Production**

- ❖ Julio Caraballo, Trividia Health – **Winner**
- ❖ Cassia Sanada, Fiplex Communications - **Runner-Up**
- ❖ Yanisleydi Valdes, SV Microwave - **Runner-Up**

**Production Support**

- ❖ Tom Parker, Florida Heat Pump Manufacturing - **Winner**
- ❖ Francisco Isaza – **Runner-Up**

**Supervisory**

- ❖ Robert Cogan, Paramount Mold & Tool – **Winner**
- ❖ Amaury Mendez, MAPEI Corporation - **Winner**
- ❖ Eric Miller, SV Microwave – **Runner-Up**
- ❖ Ricardo Serrano, The Nature’s Bounty Company – **Runner-Up**

**Affiliates**

- ❖ Marcus Amos, ARC Broward - **Winner**
- ❖ Ian Carlos Hernandez, Lean Enterprises Consulting – **Runner-Up**

**Service Award – Over 20 Years of Service**

- ❖ Robert Cogan, Paramount Mold & Tool
- ❖ John Diep – Enterprise Florida
- ❖ Michael Guerrier, KB Electronics
- ❖ Tom Parker, Florida Heat Pump Manufacturing
- ❖ Lisa Soto – Noven Pharmaceuticals
- ❖ Kevin Walker – Florida Heat Pump Manufacturing

**About the SFMA’s Recognition of Excellence Ceremony**

The South Florida Manufacturers Association each year hosts a Recognition of Excellence Ceremony that symbolizes distinction and celebrates excellence by honoring companies and individuals that excel through its Manufacturer-of-the-Year and Employee-of-the Year Awards.

This year’s finalists represented an outstanding group of companies and employees that take pride in dedicating their resources and expertise to make manufacturing in South Florida second to none. Attendees also heard from the immediate, past **CEO of General Electric Digital** – Bill

Ruh – as the keynote speaker. The keynote address was on a topic that affects all major industries: “Defining Digital Disruption.”

**About the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA)**

The SFMA has held the distinction of being the dedicated resource for manufacturers in South Florida since 1961 saving its members time and money through advocacy, networking and resources. SFMA prides itself on being member driven – creating new products and services as members’ needs change. The mission of the SFMA has remained constant though out its history: To Serve Manufacturers.

The SFMA advocates for manufacturers across the South Florida Region covering 8 counties that include: Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, and Indian River. This territory serves 6,000 manufacturers. For more information, please visit [www.sfma.org](http://www.sfma.org).

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