



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014**

NOTE: Companies will not learn they have won until the night of the banquet. Do not contact any winners prior to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27.

**Contact**

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**Realityworks, Inc. Wins 2013 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Special Award**

**Eau Claire company wins special award for innovation excellence**

**Milwaukee** – Realityworks, Inc. is one of nine Wisconsin companies awarded a prestigious Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award. The winners were announced Thursday night at a black tie banquet honoring the 34 nominees.

Realityworks, Inc. started with a mission to better address teen pregnancy prevention, parenting skills, and to address child abuse and neglect through educational products. Over the last decade their distinctive company developed several other products and programs with the desire to create engaging experiential learning tools to help educators engage students while bettering the human condition. Since that beginning, Realityworks' products are now in 90 countries worldwide, 67% of U.S. school districts, with over 180,000 infant simulators currently in the field. They have proudly served over 6,000,000 learners with their products.

Realityworks' recent launch of a welding simulator designed for educational environments has addressed a large need for educators filling positions in a much needed area – manufacturing and welding – currently suffering from skilled workforce shortages. Realityworks received this special award for their commitment to innovative products and programs that make a tremendous difference. In particular, the judges wished to recognize the company's welding simulators that are used in secondary and post-secondary education to develop skilled workers that are much needed in Wisconsin's manufacturing sector. Realityworks' simulators encourage technical skills training in a safe and cost-effective manner.

Celebrating its 26<sup>th</sup> year, the Manufacturer of the Year Award program recognizes manufacturers of all sizes and industries for their contributions to the great state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year award winners were selected by an independent panel of judges representing industry, education, and the public sector.

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The accounting and advisory firm of Baker Tilly, the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, and the business association Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce sponsor the MOTY awards program.

Additional information can be found online at [www.wimoty.com](http://www.wimoty.com) or by calling (800) 362-7301.

The 2013 winners are:

**Grand Awards**

Mercury Marine, Fond du Lac - Mega Category

Masters Gallery Foods, Inc., Plymouth - Large Category

Badger Alloys, Inc., Milwaukee - Medium Category

Tailored Label Products, Inc., Menomonee Falls - Small Category

Alto-Shaam, Inc., Menomonee Falls - Workforce Development Category

**Special Awards**

Alliance Laundry Systems, LLC, Ripon - Investing Locally, Growing Globally Award

Realityworks, Inc., Eau Claire - Innovation Excellence Award

Schuette Metals, Rothschild - Investing in the Future Award

Xten Industries LLC, Kenosha - Employee Engagement & Commitment Award

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NOTE: Visit [www.wimoty.com](http://www.wimoty.com) for more information.