

Kane County Names Top Manufacturer of the Year



Cast Aluminum Solutions was named Kane County 2015 Manufacturer of the Year.

(Gloria Casas, The Courier-News)

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Cast Aluminum Solutions among 11 nominees honored by the Kane County's Jobs Committee

A Batavia company specializing in custom engineered cast-in thermal parts used in different industries, including aerospace systems, has been named Kane County 2015 Manufacturer of the Year.

Cast Aluminum Solutions was among 11 nominees for the title. The company has 70 employees, 78 percent of who are Kane County residents, and was rebranded in 2010 when purchased by a private organization at the request of employees, according to the company's website. It exports its products worldwide, the site said.

The company will be honored at an Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing (AIM) dinner next month, Chairman Rebecca Gillam said. AIM recognizes excellence in the manufacturing industry and promotes the image of manufacturers, she said.

Jobs Committee members partnered with the county's Development and Community Services Dept. to develop a list of nominees to help promote local companies. Companies with a reputation for leadership, a focus on technology and community involvement were selected.

Nominees were: AmeriChem System, Aurora; ASK Productions Inc., Aurora; Custom Aluminum Products, South Elgin; Freudenberg Household Products Manufacturing, Aurora; Mitutoyo America Corp., Aurora, Multifil Packaging Corp., Elgin, Otto Engineering, Carpentersville, PartyLite Worldwide, Inc., Batavia; Rig Source Inc., Elburn and Vegetable Vitamin Foods Company, Montgomery.

Cast Aluminum Solutions, like the other nominees, has partnered with local universities and training facilities to offer internships, jobs and training programs.

The Jobs Committee has been exploring what makes Kane County a good place to be for businesses and the different seminars committee members have attended all have a similar message, Gillam said.

"We've found what business is looking for is talent, an educated workforce that is available and willing to work," she said.

Local education programs like Community District 300s Advanced Manufacturing Pathway, the Fox Valley Career Center, the Institute for Collaboration Aurora University and the Aurora Regional Pathways to Prosperity Project all have programs geared toward helping teens and children develop the skills needed for manufacturing and trade jobs.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.