



05/09/2007

## MAEA honors businesses

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**WEST HAZLETON** — Several area manufacturers and employers were awarded Tuesday evening at the 2007 Manufacturers & Employers Excellence Awards dinner at the Top of the 80s restaurant in West Hazleton.

The awards were given by the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association.

Darlene J. Robbins, president of MAEA said, "It's all about what you give to your local community."

Robbins presented an award to manufacturers and employers for product and process innovation, community involvement and expansion.

Cinram, the largest optical media replicator in the world, was awarded the Manufacturers Product Innovation Award. The Olyphant company, is the first to manufacture Blue-Ray and HD DVD formats in the United States.

A total HD disc, that has both formats on a single disc, developed by the company is being patented by Warner Brothers.

Alcoa Engineered Products, Cressona, was awarded the Manufacturers Community Involvement Award.

The award was the result of Alcoa distributing \$135,000 in grants in Schuylkill County.

Cargill Meat Solutions won the award for Expansion in the Manufacturing category. The company expanded to produce 2.5 million pounds of meat a week.

In the Employer category, The REPUBLICAN & Herald was given the Process Innovation Award for its conversion to a morning publication; the launching of a weekly publication, an FYI section; a Sunday edition and Coupon Madness.

AHEDD of Pottsville, took home the Employer Community Involvement Award.

The private, non-profit organization works to employ persons with disabilities.

Another Pottsville based non-profit group, Avenues, won the award for Expansion.

Avenues, formerly United Cerebral Palsy, recently opened two businesses in Pottsville, Serendipity Gift Shop and the Slim Gym Exercise Center.

Air Products Inc., Hometown and Ateeco Inc., Shenandoah, both won an honorable mention in the Community Involvement category.

"Every company has recognized their employees. Without their employees these awards would not have been possible," Robbins said.

The Northeast Pennsylvania MAEA serves companies within Carbon, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Northumberland and Schuylkill counties. They offer a range of services in order to help local companies remain competitive, including wage, salary and benefit surveys, standard and customized training programs, roundtable meetings on a variety of topics and legislative updates.

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