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6th ANNUAL STEP AHEAD AWARDS RECOGNIZE WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING The Manufacturing Institute Will Honor Joan Schatz, Co-President at Park Industries

St. Cloud, March 1, 2018: Joan Schatz was 1 of 130 honorees selected across America to receive the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Ahead Award. The STEP Ahead Award honors women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers, and are making a difference in the industry. Since its inception, STEP Ahead Award winners have impacted more than 300,000 individuals, from peers in the industry to school-age children.

“Companies across the U.S. agree there is a talent shortage in manufacturing. Through the STEP Ahead Awards, we hope to take another step towards closing this gap by highlighting the stories of successful women in manufacturing and giving them a platform to encourage other women to join the industry and be role models for the next generation,” said Carolyn Lee, executive director of The Manufacturing Institute. “The women being honored demonstrate what modern manufacturing careers are all about: making an impact in their communities with meaningful careers that offer significant opportunities for growth.”

On April 10, The Manufacturing Institute will recognize 130 recipients of the STEP Ahead Awards at a reception in Washington, D.C. Joan’s achievements will be recognized on a national stage with a formal gala to celebrate Joan and the other honorees’ accomplishments and further encourage women to mentor and support the next generation of female talent to pursue manufacturing careers.

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ABOUT PARK INDUSTRIES®

Park Industries® has grown to become North America’s largest stoneworking equipment manufacturer and has expanded their precision solutions into the metal cutting industry. Park’s machinery is proudly American Made, designed for maximum durability, minimal downtime, and high profitability. For more information, please visit www.parkindustries.com.

ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE

The Manufacturing Institute (the institute) is the 501 ©(3) affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. As a non-partisan organization, the Institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation’s manufacturers. The Institute is the authority on the attraction, qualification and development of world-class manufacturing talent. For more information, please visit www.themanufacturinginstitute.org.