

Fastener Industry Leader Inducted Into Hall of Fame; Young Fastener Professional Gets Industry Recognition in First-Ever Award

The National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo is excited to recognize and award Mr. Bruce Wheeler, Chairman of Star Stainless Screw Company, as the 2016 inductee to its time-honored Hall of Fame.

The show is also recognizing its first ever Young Fastener Professional award given to Mr. Ryan Kertis of Stelfast Inc.

For 35 years, the National Industrial Fastener show has recognized and honored those individuals who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the fastener industry and for the first time ever the show will give a special shout out to the industry's young professionals in a special, joint award recognition ceremony during the October 2016 event.

Hall of Fame Winner: Mr. Bruce Wheeler

The Fastener Industry Coalition committee reviewed several exceptional nominees and selected the top candidate, Mr. Bruce Wheeler, Chairman of Star Stainless Screw Company as the 2016 inductee. Backing this decision is the unwavering dedication demonstrated by Bruce to provide the best possible service to the fastener community through a decades-long commitment that started many moons ago.

Bruce Wheeler, started his career back in 1973, working in the warehouse of Star Stainless Screw Company. He worked in nearly every department of the company, moving from the warehouse to the sales department, eventually becoming the branch manager. After nearly a decade in sales, Bruce elevated to Executive Vice President and then President. In all his roles and responsibilities, he believes that solid relationships with customers, suppliers, and employees are critical in a successful business and to this day he still operates with an open door policy. "The nuts and bolts of business are easy, the real challenge is in managing a vast number of employees," says Bruce.

Bruce is also an invaluable source as a true thought leader for young fastener professionals trying to navigate the industry. "It's important to acknowledge that our industry is changing and we're in need of young people who are eager to learn the ropes while we work towards moving our industry forward. And we do that by embracing fresh, new perspectives and ideas from the younger generation of fastener professionals," says Susan Hurley, Show Director of NIFMSE. "We are excited more than ever to partner with the Young Fastener Professional community and we're proud to start recognizing the next generations of young, driven leaders."

Young Professional Fastener Winner: Mr. Ryan Kertis

The Fastener Industry Coalition committee has selected Mr. Ryan Kertis of Stelfast Inc. as this year's Young Fastener Professional winner.

“There were many good candidates nominated for the Young Fastener Professional award, but Ryan Kertis definitely filtered to the top of the list. As the founder of the Young Fastener Professionals association, Ryan recognizes the need to develop the next generation of fastener professionals and is creating innovative ways to help this important group acquire and develop the skills they need to succeed in our industry. We feel this, in addition to his many admirable personal qualities, merits Ryan to be the first recipient of the Young Fastener Professional award”, says Vicki Lester, Fastener Industry Coalition Board of Directors.

While attending night classes at Monmouth University to complete his MBA, Ryan first post-collegiate job was with Porteous Fastener Company as an Inside Sales person in 2009. In 2012, he received a Master’s degree in business administration and was presented with an opportunity at Stelfast, Inc. as the Pricing Manager where he would be responsible for the development & adjustment of customer pricing on a national level.

In the short period of time since he has been a part of the fastener industry, he saw the potential for young professionals like himself to thrive and succeed in this industry. In 2014, he founded the Young Fastener Professionals (www.youngfastnerprofessionals.com) organization that aims to empower the next generation of fastener professionals through a multitude of platforms including educating, collaborating & networking.

A special recognition award ceremony to honor Bruce and Ryan will take place on the show floor in the Session Area at the National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo in Las Vegas on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

About National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo

Held annually in Las Vegas, NV, the National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo is the largest fastener expo in North America. Since 1981, the event continues to bring together the manufacturers and master distributors of industrial fasteners, precision formed parts, fastener machinery & tooling and other related products and services with distributors and sales agents in the distribution chain. The event consists of an all-day conference program presented by endorsing fastener associations and a show floor with more than 600 exhibiting companies from around the world.

National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo is owned and operated by Emerald Expositions, a leading operator of large business-to-business trade shows in the United States, producing more than 50 trade shows and over 100 face-to-face events in total, including conferences, summits and other events. Emerald Expositions connects more than 335,000 sellers and buyers each year and operates within the U.S. in 10 end markets (Gift, Home, General Merchandise and Manufacturing; Sports & Apparel; Design; Jewelry, Luxury & Antiques; E-Commerce; Creative Services; Licensing; Healthcare; Military; and Food).

More information about the National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo can be found at fastenershows.com.