

TAMPA BAY **BUSINESS JOURNAL**

# business *woman* OF THE year 2019

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## MANUFACTURING

# Nancy Crews

*President and CEO, Custom Manufacturing & Engineering*

**N**ancy Crews, president and CEO of Custom Manufacturing and Engineering in Pinellas Park, took her love of science and exploration and made a career out of it.

Crews worked at Eastman Kodak for 17 years in a variety of managerial positions, and later went on to work for Lockheed Martin in specialty components. After four years of working in the defense industry, she decided to start her own company, CME, an electronic and electrical designer and manufacturer of power management/distribution equipment, sensors, and test and calibration equipment.

Crews is a task-oriented leader, according to her award submission materials. She's worked to create a culture of accountability, encouraging employees to say what they do and do what they say.

When a downturn in the defense industry came in 2013, Crews used her own personal financial backing for the company to stay afloat and employees to stay on payroll. During that time, one of the company's largest contracts was

delayed for more than an entire year, her materials said.

Under Crews' leadership, CME has grown by almost double in the last three years.

"It is through her leadership, resilience, and personal financial backing that CME survived the lows of the aerospace/defense industry when over 19,000 other small businesses went out of business or left the industry altogether," her material said.

In the community, Crews has become a staple of the company's local involvement such as with the Great American Teach-In, Middle-School Science Day — assisting schools with robotics competitions — and Toys for Tots. Personally she's a member of the Pinellas County Economic Development Advisory Board, the University of Florida-Department of Chemistry Advisory Board, the University of South Florida-Department of Computer Science & Engineering Advisory Board, in addition to other boards.

Crews has also hosted many student groups at CME over the years and has hired over 30 college interns after graduation.

— Pam Hu

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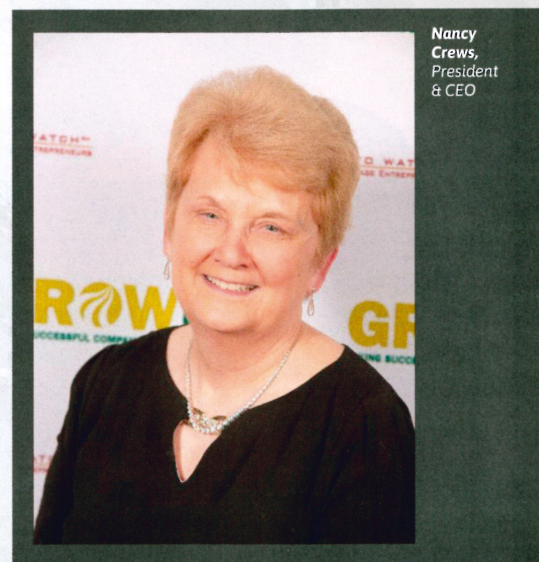


# CONGRATULATIONS NANCY CREWS

**2019 Tampa Bay Business Journal BusinessWoman of the Year Honoree**

Prior to starting CME, Dr. Crews was employed as a Senior Manager by Lockheed Martin Specialty Components, Inc. as well as worked for Eastman Kodak Corporation in a variety of managerial positions, including Marketing Director, Program Manager and Product Development Manager, Research Scientist.

CME arose from budget reductions the end of the Cold War with the goal to keep well-compensated and highly educated personnel employed. CME has grown into a robust company in Pinellas County.



Nancy  
Crews,  
President  
& CEO



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