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## **CME's CEO/President Recognized with Women in Manufacturing STEP Award**

**PINELLAS PARK, FL – (January 16, 2013)** – Dr. Nancy Crews, CEO/President, Custom Manufacturing & Engineering™ (CME™), was recently recognized by The Manufacturing Institute, Deloitte, University of Phoenix, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers with a Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Award for her excellence and leadership in manufacturing. Dr. Crews joins 121 other woman honorees, representing all levels of manufacturing from the factory floor to the C Suite.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Crews’ contributions to CME were recognized by this important new initiative,” said Fred Munro, CME’s Vice President. Dr. Crews started and grew CME into a robust company that has a strong, potential for becoming a legacy business. Continuous improvement is an integral part of Dr. Crews' business philosophy. Under her leadership, CME’s products and manufacturing services is support multiple technical markets. These results and achievements are the core of CME’s corporate culture of leadership, accountability, customer focus and employee engagement. Link to [Dr. Nancy Crews’ profile](#).

“These 122 women are the faces of exciting careers in manufacturing,” said Jennifer McNelly, president, The Manufacturing Institute. “We chose to honor these women because they each made significant achievements in manufacturing through positive impact on their company and the industry as a whole.”

The *STEP Awards* are part of the larger *STEP Ahead* initiative launched by The Manufacturing Institute, Deloitte, University of Phoenix, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, to examine and promote the role of women in the manufacturing industry through recognition, research, and best practices for attracting, advancing, and retaining strong female talent. “The *STEP Ahead* initiative was founded to change perceptions of the manufacturing industry and create new opportunities for women in the sector,” said Latondra Newton, group vice president at Toyota Motor North America, Inc. and chairwoman of the *STEP Ahead initiative*. “This initiative is the call for action to transform the face of today's manufacturing talent and ensure that women can contribute to the future of this industry.”

A 2011 survey from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute found that nearly 70 percent of American manufacturing companies have a moderate to severe shortage of available, qualified workers. Manufacturing companies cannot fill as many as 600,000 skilled positions, even as unemployment numbers hover at historically high levels. Additionally, labor statistics show that women are underrepresented in the manufacturing workforce and in manufacturing leadership ranks — a situation that must be reversed to preserve and grow the industry. On February 5, The Manufacturing Institute and its *STEP Ahead* initiative partners will recognize the 122 recipients of the STEP Awards at a reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Awards program will highlight each honoree’s story, including their leadership and accomplishments in manufacturing.

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### **About the Manufacturing Institute**

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501 (c) 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. Visit [www.themanufacturinginstitute.org](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org)

**About Custom Manufacturing & Engineering, Inc.**

Located in Pinellas Park, Florida, CME was started in 1997 and employs a diverse group of engineering and manufacturing personnel. The company is principally engaged in the design, development, and manufacture of better products for Electrical Power applications, Remote Sensors, Special Test Equipment, and other Electronic Assemblies. CME has won local and national technology awards and is considered a leading developer of innovative Power and Sensors hardware and software products and custom, special test equipment for government and industrial applications. CME specializes in intelligent or improved military electrical power for military platforms, and portable/temporary power distribution networks; unattended or remote sensors/imager; as well as special test equipment for aerospace and defense market customers. In 2012, CME achieved a delivery milestone for the 15,200 unit in its Tactical Power Supply product line. CME holds registrations for ISO9001:2008 and AS9100:2009 Rev C. Visit [www.custom-mfg-eng.com](http://www.custom-mfg-eng.com)

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