

From: SC Gov News

To:

Date: 12/5/2013 3:09:08 PM

Subject: Gov. Nikki Haley - 2013 Roger Milliken Defender Of Manufacturing Award Recipient

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**NIKKI R. HALEY**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 5, 2013  
For immediate release  
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## **Gov. Nikki Haley – 2013 Roger Milliken Defender Of Manufacturing Award Recipient**

### *South Carolina Leading Manufacturing Renaissance*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – Governor Nikki Haley will receive the 2013 Roger Milliken Defender Of Manufacturing Award this evening for her role in bringing new levels of manufacturing businesses, investment, and jobs to South Carolina.

Established in 2006, the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance's (SCMA) Defender of Manufacturing Award recognizes individuals in the public and private sectors who have worked to advance the manufacturing industry in South Carolina. Recipients are chosen by the SCMA Executive Committee. The Defender of Manufacturing Award is the most prestigious honor from the SCMA.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has announced 233 manufacturing expansions and openings, resulting in 26,000 new jobs and over \$8 billion in capital investment. This year alone, more than 30 existing manufacturers have expanded, representing \$1.4 billion in investment, and nearly 3,300 jobs.

"From day one our focus has been on bringing quality jobs to South Carolina and with 26,000 manufacturing jobs created and over \$8 billion in new investment, it's clear that South Carolina is in the midst of a manufacturing renaissance," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We build great things in this state and we are going to keep building great things here – and with the help of committed groups like the SCMA, our ability to attract and grow manufacturing jobs and businesses will remain second to none."

South Carolina's manufacturing industry experienced a greater than 18% increase in output from 2010 to 2012. Currently, South Carolina has the fastest growing manufacturing GDP on the East Coast. Between 2011 and 2012, real manufacturing GDP increased 6.8 percent in South Carolina compared to a 5.1 percent increase in Georgia and 2.7 percent gain in North Carolina.

"Manufacturing in South Carolina is at a critical, yet exciting, point," said Lewis Gossett, President & CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance. "Fortunately, Governor Haley understands the importance of industry, and she is keenly aware that South Carolina cannot just sit back and expect to see good things

happen. She and her administration have taken an aggressive approach to job recruiting, and perhaps more importantly, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that the economic climate here is the best it can be for job creation in the private sector. In Governor Haley, we have not only a fierce advocate for manufacturing but also a leader willing to do whatever is necessary to place South Carolina at the forefront of the re-shoring of jobs to this country.”

“The manufacturing renaissance in the United States is opening the door to newfound success for our industry,” said Derick Close, CEO of Springs Creative Products. “We are proud to have our products that are made in South Carolina distributed throughout the country and Governor Haley’s leadership is helping to drive this manufacturing movement.”

“Governor Haley’s leadership has helped firmly establish South Carolina as a global leader in manufacturing,” said Rob Chapman, CEO & Chairman of Inman Mills. “Her unwavering commitment in making sure our State’s business environment is strong will have a meaningful and long-lasting impact in the future.”

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