



CONTACT:

Jennifer Schwegman
Schwegman Communications, Inc.
(651) 247-6640
jennifer@schwegmancommunications.com

Disability Employment Advocate Opportunity Partners Names EPCO Employer of the Year

Incorporation of its trained assembly workforce has supported company's growth

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 2013—Engineered Products Company (EPCO), a supplier of specialty lighting and wiring consumable products for electrical contractors, today announced that it has been named the 2012 Laura Zemlin Employer of the Year for incorporating people with disabilities into its work program. The award is named after the founder of non-profit Opportunity Partners, the Minneapolis organization that offers people with disabilities innovative services and strategic collaborations that help them add value to their lives and communities. Commenting on the award, EPCO Manufacturing Manager Rob Lowry said, “In addition to good corporate citizenship, working with Opportunity Partners for the past two-years has been good business. They have helped support our growth and increased local manufacturing effort. Opportunity Partners production services guarantee 100 percent on-time delivery, so our delivery targets are totally in sync. These are dedicated individuals who are highly motivated by having the opportunity to work.”

Opportunity Partner employees work at the EPCO plant Monday through Friday, assembling and packaging thousands of electrical parts. Teams put together electrical boxes and brackets – more than 200 per day – and assemble whip lines’ or conduits for electrical usage. In a single week, they typically assemble thousands of the conduits.

EPCO President Jack Schuster explained that the company has gained much in realizing the potential of people with disabilities. “Their talents, abilities, and extraordinary work ethic have definitely added value in terms of productivity, diversifying our workforce, and reducing training and hiring costs.”

The company will be honored at Opportunity Partners annual event on February 27 in Minneapolis.

About EPCO

Engineered Products Company supplies electrical distributors with specialty lighting, lighting accessories, and wiring solutions that address a wide range of standard and unique applications. EPCO’s durable, reliable products, high fill rate, on-time delivery, and no-risk purchase terms optimize distributor cash flow and profit margins on the consumable products electricians use for commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential buildings. Known for its exceptional customer service, as well as sales representatives who are the most knowledgeable in the electrical industry, the Minneapolis-based company offers multiple configurations of products to meet a broad variety of building applications. For more information, call (800) 336-1976 or visit www.engproducts.com.

About Opportunity Partners

Founded in 1953 by a group of visionary parents who knew their teenage children with disabilities could be contributing members of the community if given a chance, Opportunity Partners has always focused on the abilities of people. Today, Opportunity Partners is redefining “disability” through advanced learning, deep community support and meaningful work – proving that everyone, when given the opportunity, adds value to this world. In 2011, more than 500 Opportunity Partners participants worked 163,733 hours at Supported Employment Teams at 63 community work sites (including EPCO).

###