

FCDC NEWS

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FCDC Member Feature



I am excited to feature another great member of the Franklin County Development Council. I have some personal connections and history with this member and so it is especially exciting for me to lift up Mac Fasteners. This is an excellent industry that started here in Ottawa and has grown exponentially and is now part of TriMas Corporation.

This company was started in 1989 by Bob MacDonald. I had the honor and privilege of working with Bob back when he was starting up the business. You will never meet a harder working and dedicated person than Bob. I am happy to say that he earned his retirement and is now relaxing and enjoying that phase of his life. But this company would not exist here in Ottawa today if it were not for Bob. His legacy here in Ottawa is evident when you drive by the current plant in our north industrial park.

Another individual that was involved in the early stages of this company was Jim Farrell. This is another gentleman that you will enjoy meeting. Jim is now the Engineering Manager at Mac Fasteners. He has been involved with the company from the start as well and is still working hard at the Ottawa location. Jim has been in the industry for more than 50 years owning his own manufacturing and distribution company, as well as being heavily involved in the industry engineering and quality arenas.

Mac Fasteners moved into the existing building in 1992 and expanded in 2000. In 2013, the company was acquired by TriMas Corporation. They currently have 50 employees. When Bob was starting the company, it was basically him and about 4 employees. I believe he had around 4 heading machines. Today they have too many machines to count that produce over 120 million bolts a year. Most of the product they produce is for aerospace as they provide product for companies like Boeing, Lockheed, Airbus, and the Department of Defense.

My other personal connection is with the current General Manager at Mac Fasteners. Alicia Howard is the leader at the local plant. It is HUGE that Alicia is the general manager. She is the first female general manager in TriMas Aerospace history. I dare say, there are most likely not many female general managers of manufacturing operations across the country. This is a credit to Alicia's hard work and dedication as well as to TriMas as a company!

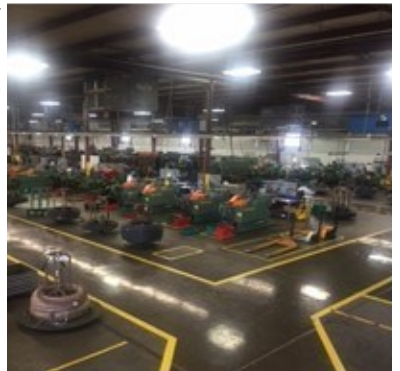
I have known Alicia for a number of years as we both served on the United Way board here in Franklin County. I could see then that this was a lady that was going to go places and do very well. She has not surprised me. She has been with Mac Fasteners for only 7 years. She started as a customer service representative, then a sales manager, then supply chain manager, to director of ops, to general manager. She did this in 6 years. Ottawa can be proud that one of our own has excelled so rapidly and with great success. She has now been the GM for a year. What a great example for the young women in our community!



We all know the challenges in getting and keeping a solid workforce today. Mac Fasteners has a culture that is supportive and welcoming. This is key to today's workforce. They have a family culture. While walking the floor with Mrs. Howard I saw a number of employees walk up to discuss various items with her. The culture is obviously one of team and togetherness. I did not sense any hierarchical barriers between management and employees.

In addition to great working relationships, the company provides opportunities for social interaction and signs of appreciation. They host cookouts, Christmas gatherings, celebrate birthdays, and occasionally hold raffles for prizes. This approach has led to success. Mac Fasteners has made its budget numbers in sales, profits and expenses.

Two other things I learned during my visit that I think you all will appreciate. Mac Fasteners purchases all of its materials from here in the US or from NATO countries only. Nowhere else. In addition, Mr. Farrell wanted to make sure I knew that this company would not have happened here in Ottawa without the tax abatement provided to them by our taxing authorities. An investment in Mac Fasteners that was made in 1992 is serving our community well in 2022.



If you want to learn more about Mac Fasteners you can look them up at <https://trsaero.com/mac-fasteners/>.

If you think you might like to have Alicia Howard share her story with some young women, you can reach her at ahoward@trsaero.com.

Thank you Mac Fasteners for being a member of FCDC and such a great success right here in Ottawa and Franklin County!!

It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!

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