



## Press Release

### The St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce hosts Annual Manufacturing Awards Luncheon



Basseterre, St. Kitts--On November 26, 2020, The Manufacturing Division of the St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) hosted an awards Luncheon at Marshall's Restaurant, under the theme *"The Future of the Manufacturing Industry in St. Kitts and Nevis. How do we Strategize to Remain Competitive and Relevant"*. The awards luncheon was held to recognize outstanding employees throughout the various Manufacturing Plants within the Federation for the year 2020. The President's Award was presented to API Harowe Servo as the most outstanding Manufacturer of the year. API Harowe was commended by the Chamber for its role in the global fight against COVID-19 in producing critical components for ventilators for use in the U.S market.

The Plants in attendance were API Harowe Servo, Carib Brewery Ltd., Jaro Electronics, Kajola Kristada Ltd., Sun Island Clothes, and Unique Fashions. Specially invited guests included the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hazel Laws and Chair of the National COVID-19 Task Force, Mr. Abdias Samuel and Ms. Mary Sallah, Chief Operations Officer of Water's Anchor. The Feature Presenter was Honorable Wendy Phipps, Minister of International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Labor.

The Awards were presented for outstanding service in their specified categories for the year 2020. The awardees for Employee of the Year included: Agnes Dore (First Shift) and Vernice Daniel (Second Shift) from API Harowe St. Kitts Ltd; Kelvin Maynard (Production) and Merja Phipps (Finance) of Carib Brewery Ltd; and Millicent Pereira (First Shift) and Tracelyn Woodley (Second Shift) of Kajola Kristada. Monica Martin of Sun Island Clothes received the Most Innovative Employee award. From Jaro Electronics, Trevicia Jeffers was awarded Most Improved Employee and Elsworth Lucas received the award for Most Reliable Employee.

An address was also made by Mrs. Giselle Matthews, President of the St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce, where she shared various approaches to improving the Sector including Strengthening of Regional Supply Chain, Promotion of Regional Trade, Implementation of the WTO trade Facilitation Agreement, accessibility to Cost-Effective Sustainable Energy and Completion of the Implementation of the Guyana/Brazil/St. Kitts-Nevis Partial Scope Agreement. Mr. Desroy Tate, Chairman of the Manufacturing Division, urged members to maintain the high quality of production which currently exists in the Federation and recognized the hard work and commitment of employees within the sector.

In her presentation, Minister Phipps covered Government Policies and the role of various stakeholders in these challenging times. Hon. Phipps noted the significance of the extension of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) in sustaining the sector, stating *"if it were not for CBERA, no American plant would remain in St. Kitts"*. The Minister also presented on global marketing and consumer trends related to manufacturing. *"What we are seeing emerging throughout this pandemic is the role of the Agro-Processing sector and the opportunities for integration and collaboration with Manufacturing,"* stated Minister Phipps as she spoke on local trends in the industry. She also highlighted the challenge with the procurement of packaging materials and suggested this as a possible opportunity for new production in the Federation.

*"We have to acknowledge that our competitive advantage in the Federation is not going to come from access to raw materials unless we are referring to Agro-processing. To build competitiveness, we must develop, respect and protect the following five pillars; The quality of production, the skillset of manufacturing workers, the price of the manufactured good, the convenience of shipping and logistics and the quality customer service that is imperative throughout the entire value chain"* noted Minister Phipps. Ms. Phipps urged that businesses must remain relevant and contribute towards the sustainable development of the present membership and future membership. The Minister congratulated the awardees and commended the Manufacturing Division on its resilience throughout the pandemic.