



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNSTEP's Tom Southworth Honored with Award at the MEP National Conference

(Rocky Hill, Connecticut) – The Grand Ballroom of the Marriott World Center in Orlando was the stage for Tom Southworth to garner a national award at the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Conference, held May 1-5, 2010. Southworth took home the MEP Practitioner of the Year Award out of a pool of 12 nominees from across the United States. The MEP Practitioner of the Year Award recognizes MEP center staff whose specialized contributions to the MEP mission have made a significant, innovative and sustainable impact on the MEP system and the manufacturing clients served.

CONNSTEP, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership for Connecticut. The assistance provided by CONNSTEP for Connecticut manufacturers is supported, in joint effort, by the Department of Commerce National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Nominated by CONNSTEP President Bonnie Del Conte and endorsed by Michael Parilla, Vice President of Corporate Manufacturing Operations of Hologic, Inc., Tom has over 23 years of experience in manufacturing, with 18 in the printing industry, with a proven track record of profit improvement, customer satisfaction and change management, illustrating the ability to control cost, increase revenue and drive process improvement through effective training and motivation. Tom is SME Bronze Certified and is an ASQ Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence, a member of the Association of Manufacturing Excellence, a member of American Mensa and a volunteer firefighter.

Tom was recently invited to present at the fifth annual conference for DScoop, a digital solutions cooperative, where he spoke on Lean in the printing industry. Tom is a contributor to *Label and Narrow Web Magazine*, the CONNSTEP publication, *The Manufacturer*, and the CONNSTEP blog, *On Point*, where he receives recognition not only for his writing skills, but for his solid and informative knowledge exchange.

CONNSTEP President Bonnie Del Conte underscores his commitment, "CONNSTEP is fortunate to have Tom on our team; his interpersonal skills and leadership has been instrumental in the success of client engagements and the launch of CONNSTEP's TWI (Training Within Industry) Program."

About CONNSTEP

CONNSTEP's mission is to help Connecticut manufacturers apply advanced technology and modern management methodologies to become more competitive. Since 1994, CONNSTEP's innovative programs help hundreds of manufacturers annually and have assisted in the creation or retention of thousands of jobs. CONNSTEP's team of manufacturing specialists provides business growth, technical and process improvement assistance. Core service areas include Lean Solutions, Quality Management Systems, Enterprise Growth Services, Green Manufacturing Systems, Business Assessments and Culture and Change Management Solutions.

CONNSTEP is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Commerce through the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

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