

The Best Environments Win

By Stephen Hannemann

Among the highlight experiences for a Manufacturer's Rep is the ongoing ability to have my fingers on the pulse of manufacturing. I have the great privilege of touring many of the businesses for whom I rep. I walk the floor and visit with owners, supervisors, and workers as well – the folks who get it done. It is a surprising and amazingly accurate indicator of how our economy is chugging along.

For the last several years I have been writing about attitudes in the workplace and owners who create upbeat work environments. In my limited experience, I witness a more stable workforce and better productivity in companies where the employees are comfortable and feel secure. It is no coincidence that the bottom lines reflect this phenomenon.

In this issue once again, I am going to shine a spotlight on 3D Plastics in Newberg, OR. Every year the employees are given the opportunity to vote for the Most Inspirational Employee of the Year. As stated before, this is not a popularity contest but the coworkers' recognizing a colleague who is easy to be around, who has an inspiring spirit, and who is willing to give



Kelly Cronan



extra effort when a helping hand is needed.

Meet Kelly Cronan – 3D Plastics' Inspirational Employee of the Year! Now, I'll use Mr. Cronan out of respect. A former forklift mechanic for many years, Mr. Cronan retired at age 62. In a very short time, he decided he didn't enjoy retirement and drove school buses in Newberg, OR until COVID shut a lot of things down in early 2020. There is a lot to be said for longevity. Now at 70 years of age, Mr. Cronan has been employed part-time at 3D Plastics for the past two years as a machine operator. It's a responsible position in that a machine operator is the first set of eyes in the quality sequence of injection molded parts.

Kelly Dundas, President of 3D Plastics had this to say about Mr. Cronan "Kelly is a great employee. He's here on time and the quality of his work is very good. He's been with us since March 2021, and has been a consistent and positive employee ever since."

In talking with Mr. Cronan, I quickly learned why he has earned the respect of leadership and workmates alike. There was a warm humor in his voice during the length of our conversation. He enjoys his



Award Presentation

work, his surroundings, and the people he works with. He enthusiastically summarized, "3D Plastics is the best place I have ever worked!" As an observation, I would offer he also enhances a great environment. Congratulations, Mr. Kelly Cronan!

As a bit of a side note, despite adverse economic conditions and labor shortages these past three years, 3D Plastics finished a record fiscal year. The best environments do win!

For more information regarding any of the well-vetted principals represented by SMH Inc., visit www.smhinc.com, phone 425.501.7342, or email stephen@smhinc.com.

SMH Inc. – "The Manufacturer's Secret Weapon"