

# NEWS RELEASE

## UT College of Business presents HR Management Excellence Awards to First Solar, Sunrise Windows and Bard Manufacturing

*For immediate release*

*For more information, contact Bob Mackowiak, 419.530.4032*

The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation presented their 14<sup>th</sup> annual Human Resource Management Awards in May, recognizing First Solar, Sunrise Windows and Bard Manufacturing for their excellence human resource practices. Additionally, John F. Meier, Chairman and CEO of Libbey, Inc., received the 2011 Difference Maker Award for his outstanding leadership and communication talents.

“As local residents think about jobs, it is important to recognize area success stories, the area’s best employers who are taking steps to attract and retain the best people,” noted Dr. Clinton Longenecker, COBI Professor of Management and chair of the Awards Selection Committee. “These organizations are employing people practices that allow them to compete at the very highest levels while creating great places to work, which have a significant impact on our regional economy!”

First Solar is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of photovoltaic solar modules and systems. Their Perrysburg facility is one of two manufacturing sites in the United States and employs more than 1,100 people. They were recognized for their HR innovation and talent management practices.

Sunrise Windows’ production facility is in Temperance, Michigan. The company, which manufactures energy efficient replacement windows and patio doors, was recognized for the impact that their “people practices” have had on the organization’s continued growth since it began in 1994.

Bard Manufacturing Company, Inc., a family-owned business since 1914, is a world manufacturing leader in the heating and air conditioning industry. With corporate offices in Bryan, Ohio, Bard also operates facilities in Madison, Georgia and Saltillo, Mexico and was recognized for HR leadership in creating a positive culture driving four generations of success.

Headquartered in Toledo, Libbey is the largest manufacturer and marketer of glass tableware in the Western hemisphere and the second largest in the world. Libbey CEO John Meier was presented the 2011 Difference-Maker Award “because John represents the very best in leadership and creating a cohesive organization that was able to deal very successfully with the recent economic downturn,” according to Longenecker.

The HR Management Excellence Awards were established in 1998 by the UT COBI Department of Management to encourage and recognize excellent progress and achievement in the field of human resource management.

“These awards are given annually to celebrate the success of local organizations and leaders for creating great places to work and for making a real difference in our economy. They demonstrate to the region that area employers can compete in a world marketplace,” said Longenecker.