

**ELECTRONIC
SYSTEMS INC.**

LEGENDARY SERVICE
INTEGRITY, RESPONSIVENESS, & FLEXIBILITY

WWW.ELECTRONICSI.COM • AUTUMN 2022

GOVERNOR SPEAKS AT ESI

By Gary Larson, President, glarson@electronicsi.com

“The culture, leadership and drive at ESI is second to none! You have a family of people that I am happy to feel a part of.”

– Sales Manager, Global Distributor



Governor Kristi Noem attended our 18th Annual Supplier Appreciation Day as guest speaker. Her strong but gracious words affirming our values and the importance of our business to South Dakota added a great deal of energy to the event. Most of our suppliers attend this event from out of state. They are eager to understand the importance of their businesses to our success.

During her time with us, Governor Noem not only encouraged our company and our suppliers, but she took notes on our values and best practices. Upon returning to the state capital, she met with staff which has since reached out to ESI to learn more about how we make business decisions and maintain such a strong supply chain during this time of extreme shortage.

Our Supplier Appreciation Day, held this year on August 25 at our Sioux Falls manufacturing facility, offered another opportunity to underline the importance of our supply chain to our thriving business. We cannot grow without our suppliers, and the fact that the governor came to help us emphasize this was a big deal.

The turnout at this annual event was larger than most pre-COVID years, and the awards handed out (more detail on Page 2) underlined what our premier suppliers do to support ESI in serving our customers.



Left to right: ESI CFO Jeff Tornow; ESI Director of Business Logistics Amy Hoines; South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem; and ESI President Gary Larson. Governor Noem spoke at ESI's 18th Annual Supplier Appreciation Day.

As in previous years, some of the best ideas are exchanged after the awards presentation, during our social time together. One supplier offered our engineering team a technical session to help us learn more about a service we do not perform but instead outsource to them. That's a great example of the above and beyond ideas that emerged from conversations following the event.

The electronics manufacturing industry is still reeling from the pandemic. If we didn't have a strong relationship with our suppliers, ESI would not have survived and be growing as we are today. Throughout the pandemic, our best suppliers collaborated closely with us, even when it meant sending us to one of their competitors to get what our customers needed. That's real partnership. We're all in this together. ♦



Governor Kristi Noem visits with an ESI production worker inspecting PCBs for shipment.

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SWITCHING UP THE AWARDS

By Shawnee Pick, Business Development Manager



At previous Supplier Appreciation Days, Electronic Systems, Inc. (ESI) gave awards to the companies scoring highest on our supplier score card over the past 12 months. We presented “Best in Class Awards” in the categories of Electronics Distributors, Printed Circuit Builds (PCB), Custom Manufacture (BTP), MRO/Consumables/ Equipment and All Categories (Overall). These awards recognized our best supplier partners

from the preceding year, with the added intention of motivating other suppliers to perform that much better. We also gave one Legend Award to a supplier reflecting ESI’s commitment to Legendary Integrity, Responsiveness and Flexibility.

At our 18th Annual Supplier Appreciation Day, held August 25, 2022, at our Sioux Falls manufacturing complex, we decided to switch things up. Given the global business disruption from which we’re emerging as well as continued supply chain challenges, we decided to present Pandemic Partnership Awards to eight suppliers that did numerous things, both large and small, to persevere and keep business as usual. The inscription on each award recognizes the company’s “outstanding commitment to help us provide Legendary Service to our Customers.”

We also presented two Legend Awards to individuals whose actions and efforts on behalf of ESI and its customers were considered to be above and beyond the call of duty. ◆

2022 SUPPLIER APPRECIATION WINNERS PANDEMIC PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Avnet	Quist Electronics
Digi-Key	Sager
Engel Diversified	Sunshine PCB
Great Lakes Engineering	TTI

LEGEND AWARDS

Grant Lanka with BOH Electronics
Todd Ness with Hisco

2022 Q2 PREFERRED SUPPLIERS

A2 Global Electronics	Heilind	Sisson Printing	Sunshine Circuits
Avnet	Sager	General Label	Donnelly
DigiKey	TTI	Minntronix	
Future	Test Equity	Kurt Mfg	
Master Electronics	Watertown Box	Active Sales	

2022 Q2 & Q3 QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Momina Hussien	Dave Anderson	Chandra Sunuwar	Brinch Bwanya
Julie Bloomhall	David Irvine	Ricky Lalley	Rosalyn Kampen
Ryan Duerksen	Luke DenHartog	Selamawit Bokru	

2022 Q2 LEGEND AWARD WINNER

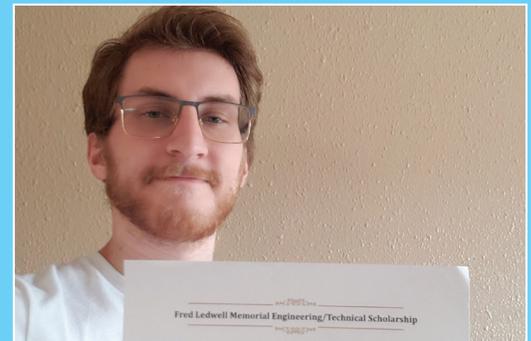
Cindy Rippentrop



Left, ESI President Gary Larson, and right, ESI Director of Business Logistics Amy Hoines, present the Legend Award to Todd Ness with Hisco.



ESI President Gary Larson, and right, ESI Director of Business Logistics Amy Hoines, present the Legend Award to Grant Lanka with BOH Electronics.



FRED LEDWELL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Eric Derr received the second annual Fred Ledwell Engineering/Technical Scholarship. His father, Joe Derr, works at ESI as a planner. Eric is a senior studying electrical engineering at SDSU. He worked for ESI as an intern this summer.

This scholarship is presented annually to a family member of an ESI employee, to carry on Fred’s legacy by recognizing the importance of engineering and technology in manufacturing. ◆

REACHING MILESTONES

5 YEARS

Chris BullertMay
 Travis HiebJune
 Sami Larson.....August
 Lisa DvorakAugust

10 YEARS

Rick Hoil.....May
 Cindy Rippentrop.....July
 Dean PearsonAugust

35 YEARS



Douglas EngesmoeSeptember

Doug Engesmoe works as a test engineer-technician for ESI. “I float all over,” he adds. “I wouldn’t be good at sitting in one spot—I like to be busy.”

Thirty-five years ago, ESI hired Doug straight out of vocational-technical school. He worked first as a technician and later as a team leader before switching to test engineering. “I cover technical challenges on the manufacturing floor, and I build a lot of our test systems,” he states.

Besides his professional skills, this long-time employee also shares a great concern for his fellow workers. Having trained as a first responder, he recently helped save the life of fellow ESI worker having a heart attack. “He made it,” says Doug with obvious satisfaction.

30 YEARS



Brenda Scheerhoorn July

Working with solder, Brenda like’s the variety of what she does in the PCB assembly process. “I’m doing something different all the time and like all the new products coming in,” says Brenda, who is especially proud of the PCBs she and other ESI employees have made for the medical industry. “I’m happy with the finished product.”

Brenda is also proud of the three decades she’s worked at ESI. Staying with a company for 30 years is a tremendous achievement,” she remarks. “It the way my parents brought me up.”

Even now, Brenda’s work as a solder specialist, brings her great satisfaction, “I take pride in doing a good job and I’m always learning something new,” she adds.

30 YEARS



Patricia Miller August

Pat has had several jobs over her 30 years with ESI: SMT operator, assembly instructor writer, quoting, team leader and document control. “I like to get around and try different things,” she explains. “I don’t want to become stuck and complacent”

“Everybody here pretty much knows who I am,” she adds.

Pat’s latest adventure is making a home for a cat that crawled under the hood of her car while in ESI’s parking lot. “We got her out and she’s been with me ever since,” says Pat. “She’s a cute calico that I’ve named Lola.”

“It’s a good group of people,” Pat says of her fellow employees. “You become friends with people, and they become your second family.

“It’s a good company to work for,” she adds, noting that ESI was smaller when she started in 1992. “We’re really expanding now—connecting buildings and adding to the number of SMT machines.”



GOAL: Become an Engineer

“Every day presents a new challenge because of the wide variety of products we manufacture,” says Chris Bullert, ESI associate manufacturing engineer. “I’m never bored!”

Chris joined ESI five years ago, advancing from SMT operator to process technician and, most recently, to associate manufacturing engineer. In May, Chris was recognized as “Employee of the Month.” “I was very humbled by that honor,” he said. “I was not expecting it, but I’ll never forget it.”

Chris sees himself as long-term ESI employee. “I would like to expand my knowledge base into epoxy, conformal coating and wave solder,” he says, adding that his goal is to become a full manufacturing engineer.

Outside of work Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids, hunting deer, antelope and pheasants, fishing, camping, golfing, and watching his sports teams.



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UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY

By Larry Jark, Technical Resources Manager, and Brett Dessel, Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Engineer



Electronic Systems, Inc., recently added two new pieces of new equipment to its manufacturing floor—an automatic tabber and a precision coating machine.

The TE Connectivity Tabber inserts terminals into printed circuit boards (PCBs). The earlier models required the operator to line up the PCB and press a foot pedal to insert the tab into the board. This new tabber will automatically bring the board into the machine, using a vision system to align the tab with the board location. This new machine can run up to three tabs a second.

The previous tabber ran one size tab at a time. The new machine allows two different sizes to be loaded at a time, and the machine is programmed to know which tab goes to which location on the PCB. It reduces errors, misalignments and potential for scrap and operator variability

The SCS Selective Coating Machine applies conformal coating to the PCBs, using parabolic pumps with a precision spray head. ESI currently operates multiple selective coating machines. This is the next generation in advanced coating. It can spray two different coatings and apply damming material to keep overspray out of unwanted areas. It comes with a five-head tool changer, allowing us flexibility and time savings for materials we can place down.

Investment in the newest technology strengthens the partnership between ESI and those we serve.

Equipment like the new tabber and coating machine show our employees ESI is willing to bring them the latest and greatest equipment on the market. It challenges our employees to constant learning.

These equipment investments also show our customers ESI is continuously improving. As they have needs, we're willing to grow. Investment in the newest technology strengthens the partnership between ESI and those we serve. ◆



Dave Anderson operates the newest conformal coating machine at ESI.



Operator Adi Abraham shows off ESI's new automatic tabber.