

April 21, 2005

## **Dixie Industrial Finishing Company named manufacturer of the year**

DEKALB – Dixie Industrial Finishing Company, Inc. based in Tucker, Georgia was named ‘Manufacturer of the Year’ at this week’s Governor’s luncheon attended by 1,300 at the Cobb Galleria.

“We are grateful to those who have provided sound leadership and vision for Dixie over the past forty-five years,” said David Henderson, President. “We are blessed with many wonderful employees, great customers, and a dedicated group of vendors and suppliers.”

Dixie Industrial was nominated by DeKalb Technical College, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, and the DeKalb County Development Authority, for their commitment to its community, employees, vendors, partners, and the environment.

“Dixie is a fine example of what can be accomplished when an organization functions not only as a team, but as a family where each individual is treated with the same amount respect and appreciation,” said Dr. Robin Hoffman, President of DeKalb Technical College. “We are lucky to have them as neighbors, partners, and friends.”

“I encourage all manufacturers to be an advocate for all of manufacturing and to let their voice be heard on how decisions are made in Atlanta and Washington that effect their business, industry, and the families that depend on it,” said Jim Jones, Vice President of Sales for Dixie Industrial.

Located in Tucker, Georgia, Dixie Industrial Finishing Company, Inc. is an 8.3 million dollar-a-year company. Dixie employs 102 workers (84 regular employees, 18 temporary workers)—many of whom reside in the local area, and spend their earnings in the local community. Dixie Industrial Finishing Company, Inc. considers all employees to be family; thus, the company has never experienced an employee layoff. During tough economic times, Dixie rearranges shifts and employees and occasionally reduces work hours, but never to a level where employees lose company benefits.

Dixie’s impact on the local economy is substantial. The company purchases from local businesses whenever possible. More importantly, Dixie’s presence in DeKalb County is a draw for other manufacturing firms: metal finishers are widely dispersed, and manufacturers that require plating services consider Dixie’s proximity when searching for relocation areas. Dixie’s services also affect the national economy. The company provides plating for a wide range of manufacturing sectors, including aerospace, agricultural, automotive, construction, electrical distribution, electronic, lawn & garden, and material handling companies. Dixie’s customer base includes small, medium, and large manufacturers who, in turn, supply parts to large automotive manufacturers and other global companies. Many large companies use the parts plated by Dixie in the production of goods distributed throughout America.

For years, Dixie Industrial Finishing Company, Inc. has been very active in community involvement programs, contributing both hands-on volunteerism and financial assistance. The company encourages its employees to participate in such programs; Dixie management’s attitude is that, if you live or work in a community, you should support that community.

General Motors’ Doraville Assembly Plant was also a nominee for this year’s MAW competition. General Motors Doraville, a major employer in DeKalb County and education partner with DeKalb Technical College, was recognized as a nominee in the large manufacturer category. Doraville’s team of 3,600 employees produces approximately 1,000 vehicles a day for the 2005 crossover sport vans. Models include the Chevrolet Uplander, Pontiac Montana SV6, Saturn Relay and Buick Terraza.

Manufacturing Appreciation Week is held each year in April and emphasizes how vital manufacturing is to Georgia’s economy. Nearly 10,000 manufacturing facilities are located in Georgia, providing jobs

for approximately 450,000 Georgians. Manufacturing accounts for almost 10 percent of the employment in our state.

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