*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**AMBA Announces New Industry Award for Emerging Leadership Alongside 2024 Conference Theme – Engage. Elevate. Evolve.**

Indianapolis, IN -- The American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) has announced a new industry-wide award to celebrate up-and-coming leaders within its membership. The AMBA Emerging Leaders Rising Star Award is intended to recognize outstanding growth, leadership and/or contributions by an emerging professional in the AMBA community. This award will be announced during the upcoming AMBA Annual Conference 2024 in Grand Rapids, MI, March 19-21, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, alongside the annual 2024 Mold Builder and Tooling Trailblazer of the Year awards.

In addition to receiving the inaugural Emerging Leaders Rising Star Award, the winner – who must be an employee at an AMBA member company - will receive a financial contribution of $500 to be used towards his/her professional development. Nominations can be submitted by peers, supervisors or potential recipients themselves and should include the characteristics and accomplishments exemplified by the nominee.

The announcement of this award reflects the priority that the U.S. mold manufacturing industry is placing on workforce development efforts in business today. Because hiring skilled labor continues to be a challenge for many domestic manufacturers, it’s more important than ever for employers to develop, train and advance employees themselves, both for future management roles and long-term succession planning.

“This year, AMBA’s conference theme – Engage. Elevate. Evolve – speaks to the importance of embracing opportunities to develop and evolve professionally and personally,” explained Kym Conis, AMBA Managing Director and 2024 Conference Director. “We’re excited to complement this growing focus with the launch of this award, which highlights the impact of these efforts, as well as celebrates the companies fostering growth within their organizations.”

Programming at AMBA Conference 2024 will focus on workforce development strategies, as well as best practices in business strategies, continuous improvement, automation and more. For more information on AMBA Conference 2024 – Engage. Elevate. Evolve., including agenda, programming, speakers, hotel and registration, visit AMBAconference.com. To nominate either yourself or another AMBA member company for the Emerging Leaders Rising Star Award or the other annual industry awards announced during the conference, visit AMBA.org. The deadline to submit a nomination is February 9, 2024.

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**About the AMBA**

The American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) is the only organization dedicated to elevating the competitive advantage of U.S. mold builders. AMBA provides workforce development initiatives, networking, benchmarking opportunities and industry promotion. AMBA members receive a variety of additional benefits, including access to cost-reduction programs, visibility to mold buyers and problem-solving resources that give members a competitive advantage. To learn more about AMBA membership and ongoing initiatives, visit AMBA.org.

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