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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMBA Announces 2017 Mold Builder and Tooling Trailblazer of the Year Award Recipients**

The American Mold Builders Association (AMBA), Indianapolis, IN, proudly presented Joseph Genc, Jr., Graphic Tool Corporation, Itasca, IL, with the 2017 Mold Builder of the Year Award and Westminster Tool, Inc., Plainfield, CT, with the Tooling Trailblazer of the Year Award during the AMBA's Annual Conference, May 10-12, 2017, in Cleveland, Ohio. The awards, sponsored by Progressive Components, include a \$5,000 endowment to each for continuing education in moldmaking, to be presented to the educational institution of the recipient's choice.

During the awards ceremony, Joseph Genc was recognized as a true industry advocate who has dedicated his life-long career in mold building to the education of others and to the advancement of the industry at large. Working with both the AMBA and TMA in creating curriculum, Genc was instrumental in guiding apprentices towards success, and his teaching methodologies are still in use today. Genc's career in mold building started soon after high school in his father's tool operation - Actron Tool Company. Upon closing Actron in the late 1990s, Genc worked with a number of leading mold manufacturing operations, including PM Mold, REXAM Mold Manufacturing and finally, Graphic Tool Corp., where he continues today to work as a program manager. Throughout his career, Genc remained steadfast in his passion for teaching apprentices, building curriculum and sharing knowledge with industry peers.

Westminster Tool, Inc., was awarded with the new AMBA Tooling Trailblazer of the Year Award, established to recognize AMBA member accomplishments that have resulted in a notable impact in the area of education. Westminster was recognized for its multi-faceted recruitment efforts, targeting middle school, high school and college students, as well as displaced workers. Programs cited include Westminster Tool Shadow Program, Annual Open House, High School "Mock Interview" Events, "Learn-While-You-Earn" Scholarship Sponsorship, Legislation Advocacy, EAMA Annual Video Challenge, Connecticut Early College Opportunity and more!

For more details on the AMBA Mold Builder of the Year and Tooling Trailblazer of the Year Awards, call the American Mold Builders Association at 317.436.3102. Additional information will be provided in the spring issue of *The American Mold Builder* and on the AMBA website at [www.amba.org](http://www.amba.org).

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The American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) is a premier association for US mold manufacturers, providing benchmarking metrics, cost-saving programs, educational resources, peer exchange forums, plant tour workshops, conferences and more. AMBA member companies serve original equipment manufacturers in every industry including automotive, medical, electronics/electrical, toys, recreation and sporting goods, building and construction, lawn and garden, consumer, and industrial. AMBA also has members that provide services and/or materials directly related to the mold building industry. For more information, visit [www.amba.org](http://www.amba.org).