

Women Impacting Moldmaking



Honoring female makers, innovators and leaders who are influencing our industry's future.

Francine Petrucci
President/Co-owner
BA Die Mold, Aurora, Illinois

"There was never any doubt in my mind that I would work with my father in the moldmaking industry."

Francine Petrucci grew up in the mold manufacturing industry, beginning in her pre-teens working part time at her father's shop, BA Die Mold. After graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University's School of Engineering, where she was one of the only women in the program, she began her full-time career at BA. Francine worked in the company's CNC and quality assurance departments, then through administra-

tive roles in the office to now serving as the company's president and co-owner. In her role, she oversees general corporate management, building and equipment management/maintenance, corporate marketing and customer relations, and, as she puts it, "selfless promotion of our trade!"

Francine takes pride in providing a woman's touch to every aspect of her company's operations. "Female engineers bring a different perspective to projects and how we approach them. This is invaluable, particularly since I work in an almost 100-percent male-dominated industry," she says.

In addition to fulfilling her lifelong pursuit to work in an industry she loves, Francine has been an active member and on the board of directors of the Chicago

chapter of the American Mold Builder's Association since 2003. In 2012, she accepted the role of chapter president and just passed the gavel to a new chapter president in March. Over the years, Francine has met with Illinois and federal legislators about rebuilding American manufacturing, and she continues to make them aware of policies that are hurting domestic manufacturing. Francine has also worked with competing companies to better the overall working environment for manufacturing businesses.

A tireless promoter of mold manufacturing as a viable career to young women and young men alike, including a speaking engagement at a local high school where she shared her experiences as a woman working in a nontraditional career for women, Francine

established the first Education Committee for the AMBA Chicago Chapter. She has enthusiastically led that group in achieving its goals, including creating a website (moldyourcareer.org) and brochure emphasizing the rewarding aspects of working in manufacturing. Francine was also instrumental in the chapter's ability to exhibit at the 2014 IMTS Smartforce Student Summit to educate the young adults, teachers, counselors and parents in attendance about mold manufacturing.

In 2016, Francine was honored with the Illinois Technology & Manufacturing Association's Rose Mottl Leadership in Manufacturing Award for her work to advance the manufacturing industry and for serving as an inspiration to current and future generations of women in manufacturing.