

2020 Hall of Fame and Young Fastener Professional Award Winners Announced

International Fastener Expo celebrates the recipients of the 2020 Hall of Fame and Young Fastener Professional of the Year Awards, which annually honor professionals who have made significant contributions to the fastener industry.

In 2020, the award winners were announced during IFE's digital event, Match & Meet by IFE, which took place November 11 – 12, 2020.

The Hall of Fame and Young Fastener Professional of the Year Awards recognize those who have made lasting inputs to the fastener industry on a national or global scale, and leaders, 40 years old or younger, who already have an unimpeachable record of integrity and respect in the industry, respectively.

Meet the 2020 Hall of Fame Award winners:

Tim O'Keeffe, G.L. Huyett

Tim O'Keeffe acquired G.L. Huyett in 1992. He quickly improved the company by incorporating technology, adding a pick-&-pack system, publishing the first catalog and introducing G.L. Huyett's first employee benefits package. These new initiatives have transformed how distributors manage their inventory, while increasing profits. O'Keeffe was the associate chair of the National Fastener Distributors Association from 2008-2009 and is known throughout the industry as someone who is willing and excited to share his knowledge with others.

John Wachman, Desert Distribution

John Wachman's fastener career began in the mid-1970s as a sales and product manager for Gesipa Fasteners, covering the eastern and midwestern U.S. After stints as a sales manager for Cherry Textron and VP of OEM Operations at Copper State Bolt & Nut, he created Desert Distribution Sales LLC in 2001. He is a board member of the Fastener Industry Coalition and was heavily involved in developing the Fastener Training Institute. Wachman's guidance and insights expanded the FTI into an internationally recognized organization that continues to benefit the fastener industry.

Meet the 2020 Young Fastener Professional of the year:

Jessi Solt, G.L. Huyett

Jessi Solt, Customer Experience Leader for G.L. Huyett, was named the 2020 Young Fastener Professional. Since starting her fastener career at G.L. Huyett in 2014, she has consistently been recognized as a rising star within the industry and is active at IFE in Las Vegas each year. Jessi was instrumental in helping the Young Fastener Professionals (YFP) organization gain visibility and evolve to become a newly integrated part of the National Fastener Distributors Association (NFDA).