

March 8, 2024

Blachford Acoustics Group is proud to announce that Blachford Inc. (West Chicago, IL) has won, not one, but two 2024 Spark Awards for excellence in manufacturing. Blachford won awards in the category for Safety as well as Operational Excellence at the 8th Annual Spark Awards.

The Spark Awards, held at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL on March 6th and presented by the [Valley Industrial Association \(VIA\)](#), honors the best of the best among Chicago area manufacturing. Blachford's Esther Barrios, Michael Benjamin, Charles Furst, Tonya Hubbartt, Ramon Leon, Milton Paloma and Alex Severson attended the ceremony and accepted the award for the team.

Blachford's President and COO, Matthew Taub, had this to say about the accomplishment, "I'm incredibly proud of what the team has accomplished regarding our top organizational priorities, Safety and Operations. They have put in incredible time and effort to improve over the last three years. We truly have a world-class team, and it's great to see these efforts formally recognized."

Director of Operations, Ramon Leon, added "It is great to see the efforts of our successful team accomplishing this milestone in our continuous improvement journey."

Manufacturers compete by completing a self-assessment that measures their aptitude in the six categories: Workforce Development, Safety, Innovation, Culture, Operations, Social Responsibility. Those with the highest benchmarking results become finalists in the competition. Finalists are interviewed by a panel of industry experts to determine winners in each category. This is the first time Blachford has won a Spark Award

"Blachford Acoustics Group has set the standard for manufacturing among the Chicago area," said Kathy Gilmore, president of the VIA. "This award is a testament to their commitment to best practices and continuous improvement."