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Getman Corporation receives inaugural Exported Product of the Year award, MMA Annual Excellence Awards 2023

Celebrating World Trade Month

May has been recognized as World Trade Month in the United States since 1938. Here in Michigan, we recognize the daily impact international trade has on our business community. Last year, MEDC’s International Trade program supported \$510,534,120 in new small business export sales, creating or retaining 2,374 jobs in our state. We are proud to support dynamic companies across Michigan and we celebrate the work you do this month and always.

To honor the work of our small business exporters, we are once again partnering with the Michigan Manufacturers Association to sponsor the 2nd Annual Michigan Manufactured Export of the Year Award. This is our chance to recognize and promote the most innovative products and leaders of the Michigan manufacturing industry. [Nominations are open June 10 – Aug. 16](#), with the MMA Excellence Award ceremony and dinner November 6. Last year we honored Bangor-based Getman Corporation and their A64 HD Water Cannon.

Reminder: Michigan Mexico Office to visit Michigan in June

MEDC's Mexico office representative, Silvia Alonso, will visit **June 3-7**, with visits taking place in Troy (Automation Alley), Grand Rapids (Van Andel Global Trade Center), and Traverse City (Networks Northwest). Please [contact your International Trade Manager](#) if you are interested in setting up a meeting with Silvia. Please note three upcoming events related to this visit:

- [Doing Business in Mexico](#): June 4, Automation Alley in Troy. Join in person or virtually.
- [West Side Networking Social](#): June 5, Grand Rapids
- [Automation Alley Trade Mission to Mexico](#): Oct. 13-18, 2024

Professional Certificate in Anti-Counterfeiting and Brand Protection

The International Business Center (IBC) at Michigan State University and MEDC offer a limited number of **free** Professional Certificates in Anti-Counterfeiting and Brand Protection for Michigan businesses. Designed by the MSU's Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection (A-CAPP), [the certificate program](#) aims to teach the skills and knowledge professionals need to protect their brand proactively and strengthen their position in the global markets. The online program comprises 17 courses that also can be taken individually based on needs and interests.

Contact your ITM or kocaserk@msu.edu to take advantage of this opportunity.



Petoskey Designer Barbara May Brings her Passion for Fashion to the Masses

Barbara May, creative director and president of [B.May Bags](#), was making bags out of her basement when she caught the attention of fashion icon and former Birmingham boutique owner Linda Dresner, who asked if she'd be interested in selling her bags out of her shop. In June 2023 and January 2024, B.May Bags participated in the Pitti Uomo menswear trade show in Italy, one of the largest in the world, thanks to her unisex BM.AC bag collaboration with designer Aki Choklat. Her participation gave her unmatched exposure to the industry thanks in part to the support of MEDC's [International Trade](#) team. Barbara has two locations in Petoskey and Birmingham.

[READ MORE ABOUT B.MAY BAGS' SUCCESS](#)

Events and Opportunities

May 1: Michigan World Trade Week 2024: Michigan World Trade Week is a celebration of international trade and business growth for Michigan, with the 2024 theme Exporting Michigan Made: Designed, Engineered, and Grown. For 38 years businesses and community leaders have worked together to commend companies succeeding in global trade and offer insights into key export challenges and opportunities. This event will take place 12-4:30 at GVSU's Downtown Campus in Grand Rapids. Join the MEDC team and our statewide partners! [Register here.](#)

June 4: Doing Business in Mexico: Discover how recent manufacturing and technological advancements in Mexico have positioned the nation as a global hub for innovation. Gain insights into the vast array of opportunities available to U.S. businesses, spanning across various sectors including advanced manufacturing, automotive, cleantech, IT/ICT, healthcare, medical, and aerospace. Speakers include: Silvia Alonso, Michigan Mexico Office; Tim Finerty, Wipfli; and Ted Brown, Totally Automated Systems. Information will also be provided on Automation Alley's upcoming trade mission to Mexico, October 13-18. This event will take place 11:30-1 at Automation Alley's office in Troy, with lunch provided for attendees. [Register here.](#)

June 12: New to Export Workshop Are you looking to expand your business and tap into new markets? Do you want to take your products or services to the global stage and reach customers around the world? If so, don't miss the Van Andel Global Trade Center (VAGTC) upcoming New-to-Export Workshop featuring a network of State and Federal Organizations committed to helping businesses of all sizes start and expand their exports. Each workshop will provide businesses with: First steps & resources to start to build exports; An overview of statewide export services available to assist Michigan businesses; and, Actionable next steps to start or grow existing exports. [Register here.](#)

June 25-26: Complying with U.S. Export Controls Training The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the East Michigan District Export Council, with the support of the U.S. Commercial Service, are hosting a two-day, hands-on workshop that will cover U.S. Government export controls (Export Administration Regulations), including: Types of controls, Classifying your product, Licensing requirements, Record-keeping requirements, Export clearance, Enforcement, Laws/policies on U.S. economic/trade sanctions. [Register here.](#)

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