

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 9, 2019

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**CAREER READY 100: MDI to celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> graduate of Career Skills Program**

*Program teaches communication, leadership, initiative, teamwork and other career-ready skills to people with and without disabilities in an integrated classroom*

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.** – MDI today announced that it will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> graduate of its Career Skills Program at a graduation ceremony on May 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at its Minneapolis facility. First implemented in 2017, the program provides people with and without disabilities the professional skills needed in today’s workforce, including attitude, grit, punctuality, communication, leadership, initiative, work ethic, teamwork and critical thinking. MDI is a nonprofit manufacturer whose workforce is comprised of nearly 50% people with disabilities.

“We are so proud to reach this milestone of 100 graduates of our Career Skills Program,” said Peter McDermott, president & CEO of MDI. “At MDI our ultimate goal is to help people with disabilities find meaningful employment within our communities and to help employers see the value of hiring people with disabilities. This program is a true testament to the tenacity and dedication that exists in this untapped workforce, and I am so proud of the work they do to advance their career.”

**WHAT:                    Graduation ceremony for Career Skills Program students**

**WHEN:                  Monday, May 13, 2019**

10 A.M.: Graduation ceremony (graduates will give elevator pitches, receive certificates)

11 A.M.: Availability for interviews with graduates and MDI President & CEO

**WHERE:                MDI**

3501 Broadway St. NE. Ste. 100

Minneapolis, MN 55413

**WHO:                    MDI Career Skills Program graduates and president & CEO Peter McDermott will be available for interviews**

MDI hosts the program for cohorts at its facilities in Minneapolis, Hibbing and Cohasset. Participants who graduate from the program gain skills such as how to deliver their own elevator pitch, communicate with confidence, and strengthen soft skills.

“The Career Skills program helped me learn how to stay on schedule, be patient and work with all kinds of people,” said Walter Louis, who graduated from the program and was hired by MDI shortly after.

#### **About MDI**

[MDI](#) is a leader in manufacturing corrugated standard and custom plastic packaging solutions, production and medical assembly, and environmental services. As a nonprofit Social Enterprise, MDI creates self-sufficiency by providing meaningful work in an inclusive environment, with nearly half of the workforce comprised of people with disabilities. Headquartered in Minneapolis, with additional locations in Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Cohasset, MDI offers an unparalleled customer experience, while providing high-quality products and services to businesses and organizations.

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