

Presenter: Ann Cramer

Award: EXECUTIVE / MANAGER

Recipient: Shan Cooper – Lockheed Martin Aeronautics

In this my first year as an awards' advisor, it's a very special honor for me to announce the winner in the Executive/Mgr. Category. There are 16 nominees in this category and they represent some of Atlanta's best examples of leadership character. Diverse in their backgrounds and professions - ALL of these nominees are high-achievers and deserve to be recognized.

Making the final selection is never easy, but our advisor group was up to the task. The 2013 winner is --- **SHAN COOPER**, Vice President & General Mgr. – Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company.

Shan Cooper's span of responsibility includes a workforce of over 6,500 employees, 4 operating sites in 4 states. She and her team have a true "focus on the whole" – i.e., delivering world-class military aircraft to America's defenders on the front lines of freedom.

One of the contributors to her nomination said, "She's a role model of the company's core values: "Do what's right. Respect others. Perform with Excellence." That also makes her a role model of leadership character!

Another contributor said, "I cannot think of anyone who lives RESPECT more than Shan." In difficult and uncertain economic times, she earns respect even when delivering bad news about potential job changes or loss. Always candid, transparent and honest with employees and other stake holders like the Defense Contract Management Agency, Shan helps identify problems, occasional failures - and offers a solution upfront.

On an individual basis, Shan meets with employees, listens to their concerns, doesn't interrupt, doesn't multi-task, and makes sure she gets back with them even if the answer's not what they want to hear. In meetings, she'll gently insist that all are heard and all feel valued.

Treating everyone with the same dignity and respect - from a new employee to a single mother seeking assistance to a high-ranking official – Shan has generated an unprecedented level of approachableness. Walking the talk of leadership character everyday, Shan is a hands-on business leader who has

the ability to make tough decisions. She also serves the community on a variety of boards from WellStar to the Girls and Boys Club of ATL - shares personal time with Special Olympians and helps prepare an apartment for a family in need -- all with style, grace and compassion.

Please join me in congratulating this extraordinary leader –Shan Cooper - our 2013 Leadership Character Award winner in the Executive/Manager category.