



University of Wisconsin-Stout Leadership Tours Prent

On November 5, Prent welcomed UW-Stout Chancellor Katherine Frank and Vice Chancellor Willie Johnson to its global headquarters for a guided tour of its Janesville facility as well as its sister company GOEX Corporation. Before the tours began, Chancellor Frank and Vice Chancellor Johnson had the opportunity to meet with many Prent employees who are also UW-Stout alumni. VP of Product Development Don Handrow and Senior VP of Sales Tom Schaffner, who are also UW-Stout alumni, led the tours.

UW-Stout is one of only a few schools in the US that offers a BS degree in Packaging. Prent has committed to ensuring UW-Stout graduates are prepared to work in the industry through various contributions including \$1 million to establish the Prent Packaging Lab, over \$300,000 in scholarships, and participation in its Packaging Advisory Committee, career fairs, and alumni events. Additionally, Prent has employed more than 100 UW-Stout graduates over the last 25 years, with 20 alumni currently on staff (five of whom are in leadership positions, including President and CEO Joe Pregont), and provided internships and co-op employment for over 70 UW-Stout students.

“It is apparent that Prent and GOEX are committed to quality, innovation, and continuous improvement. Both companies care about the materials and products they produce, serving their customers, and supporting their employees,” Frank said. “Being able to visit with a large group of UW-Stout alumni—several of whom have spent 10-plus years at the company and are responsible for hiring and supporting new UW-Stout graduates—and learning about their successes epitomizes what we mean when we say we are ‘Stout Proud!’”

“The partnership between Prent and UW-Stout truly presents a model for others to emulate. It has impacted program development, infrastructure improvement, and student success on multiple levels. Both partners have benefited from the expertise that we bring to our long-standing relationship, and we continue to look for ways that we can improve,” Frank said.

2022 Prent Trade Show Schedule

HEALTHPACK

Atlanta, GA | March 20-22

MD&M WEST

Anaheim, CA | April 12-14

THE[PACK]OUT

Austin, Texas | May 10-12

SOUTHPACK

Charlotte, NC | June 14-16

PACK EXPO

Chicago, IL | Oct. 23-25

MD&M MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, MN | Nov. 2-3

CHINA MED

Beijing, China | May 6-8

CMEF

Shanghai, China | April 7-10

MEDTEC CHINA

Shanghai, China | Aug. 31-Sept. 2

MEDICAL FAIR THAILAND

Bangkok, Thailand | Sept. 13-15

PHARMAPACK EUROPE

Paris, France | May 18-19

MEDICAL TECH. IRELAND

Galway, Ireland | Sept. 21-22

COMPAMED

Düsseldorf, Germany | Nov. 14-17



Pictured above: Don Handrow guiding Chancellor Katherine Frank (left) and Vice Chancellor Willie Johnson through Prent.

Pictured at left: front row (left to right) Nate Mercier, Brandon Tennyson, Chancellor Frank, Vice Chancellor Johnson, Michelle Rademacher, and Tom Schaffner; Back row (left to right) Kyle Zeilinger, Don Handrow, Brian Kuhns, Kevin Polacek, Jesse Winker, and Jennifer Hawkins.

Q&A WITH PRENT EMPLOYEES CELEBRATING LONG-SERVICE MILESTONES



Juan Carlos Touma » Plant Manager - Prent Costa Rica

Hired in January 2012 • Celebrating 10 years of employment at Prent

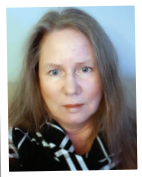
How did you first learn about Prent? Long story short ... in 1998, I worked for a local thermoforming company in Costa Rica. After Intel was established in the country, Prent Corporation entered into a joint venture with this company to supply them locally. After a few years, I got an offer to move to Janesville, Wisconsin, where I lived for a couple years. I moved back to Costa Rica, but kept in touch with a lot of people from Prent. So, when the decision to open a plant in Costa Rica was made, I was ready to accept the challenge.

How many positions have you held at Prent? In Prent Costa Rica, I was a production supervisor. Then, I worked as a unit manager for production Unit 3 and Secondary Operations in Janesville, and was ultimately hired as a plant manager to start up the plant in Costa Rica.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Definitely the people! Prent people are different. The “Prent way,” which is what I like to call it, comes from the top management down and everybody is impregnated with it. There is a reason why you see employees stay at Prent, literally, for decades! I also think that being part of the medical industry is a blessing. We are lucky enough to be an essential part of all our customers’ products, improve the quality of peoples’ lives, and even save loved ones! It may sound like rhetoric, but Prent headquarters truly acts as a parent to all of its satellite plants—it is not uncommon to share and standardize best practices among plants, or have cross training and support among people from different plants, thanks to the level of standardization we have throughout the corporation. No matter how many facilities are opened, the same will always happen with the “newborn.”

How has Prent changed since you were hired? Prent is a perfect model of continuous improvement. For example, the machines we had in the 1990s compared to the machines we have now—and the process itself—have evolved, thanks to the people at all of our plants around the world. There is a constant analysis of what we can do better, then we figure out how to do it better. Finally, the best part is that every single machine at every single location in the world will be upgraded and the new ones will be built with all the new capabilities. It may sound easy, but it requires a great level of commitment from all departments at all levels of the company. What hasn’t changed is “the team commitment to do the job right the first time and every time.” This phrase is part of our policy and a part of the mindset of every Prent employee. This definitely hasn’t changed since I first started working for Prent and it is the cornerstone for both our successes locally and as a corporation.

What has been your proudest moment at Prent? It is impossible to mention just one but here are a few ... Looking back in time I see myself raising Costa Rica’s flag at our world headquarters. I was aware of the huge responsibility I had on my shoulders to maintain Prent’s reputation as the world’s leading thermoformer and I also felt responsibility to show the great potential Prent has in our country. Today, after 10 years, I am sure that all of us at Prent Costa Rica have fulfilled both and will continue to do so. *(You can view more of this interview at prent.com.)*



Julie Isferding » Senior Product Development Designer

Hired in May 1984 • Celebrating 37 years of employment at Prent

What drew you to Prent originally? I read in the newspaper that they were looking for a receptionist and an illustrator.

How many different roles/positions have you held at Prent? I have worked at Prent as a receptionist, an illustrator, a junior designer, and a senior designer during my 37 years of employment.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Designing is like putting a puzzle together. I enjoy going home with a feeling of accomplishment.

How has Prent changed since you were hired? When I began, we used to draw trays on a drawing board and didn’t have any computers. There were four people in the product development department when I started working there and today there are more than 50 employees!

What have you gained from working at Prent? I would have never had the opportunity to work on the latest computers and software had I not been employed here.

What has been your proudest moment at Prent? Finishing up a group of 27 total trays that encompassed an entire product line for an orthopedics company.

Where did you work prior to your employment at Prent? I was a bartender at the Wagon Wheel Resort in Rockton, Illinois that used to be a famous place that celebrities went.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

**PY Wong, Prent Malaysia
Quality Assurance Manager**



supplier quality and continual improvement, and acts as an internal representative to assist top management in maintaining the effectiveness of Prent Malaysia's Quality and Environmental Management Systems.

Wong was born in the small historical town of Kota Tinggi District in the Malaysian state of Johor and currently resides in Johor Bahru. He earned a Bachelor of Science Advanced Honours (Physics) degree and went on to become a supplier quality engineer in a Singapore-based precision injection plastic molding company before joining the Prent Malaysia team.

Wong says what he likes most at Prent is the teamwork between his QA team and the management team. He feels this seamless synergy conquers any challenges, both internal and external. He also feels the opportunities in career development at Prent are totally fair and open. "I never tire of the highly dynamic and efficient working environment within Prent Malaysia! My Prent colleagues and friends always give me more of a 'welcome home' environment rather than an 'office' environment while at work," he said.

He spends most weekends participating in family activities with his younger children including playing games, watching Netflix, and hunting. He is also an automotive enthusiast who spends his time reading about and watching automotive news covering a very wide variety of vehicles.

PY Wong began his employment with Prent in May of 2013. Before being promoted to Prent Malaysia's QA Manager in 2016, Wong worked as a Senior QA Engineer managing medical customer accounts. In his current role, Wong ensures the QA department functions effectively to support the manufacturing of parts that meet both customer and internal quality requirements. He also manages raw material

Prent Malaysia Employees Celebrate Deepavali

Prent Malaysia's Nepalese employees celebrated Deepavali, also known as the Festival of Lights, in November. As one of the major cultural festivals in Singapore, Deepavali (also known as Diwali) is a celebration that marks the triumph of good over evil. Many transform their homes into beacons of light, exchange gifts, share feasts, and perform pooja (prayers) to deities. At left is a photo of some of the festive goodies that were provided to Prent staff. Prent Malaysia also celebrated Christmas with similar gifts to employees.



GOEX Corporation Hires New Plant Manager

GOEX welcomed Travis Isaacson as Plant Manager at its new facility in Cedar City, Utah. He will oversee all day-to-day production functions at the soon-to-be-completed site, ensuring the final products delivered to GOEX customers meet all company, regulatory, and quality requirements. Isaacson joined the GOEX team in Janesville, Wisconsin to cross train on the production floor, gain hands-on experience, and learn systems to implement in Cedar City when it is completed in the upcoming new year.



Prent China Showcases Products and Services at CMEF

In October, Prent China shared its expertise and knowledge at the 2021 China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF). "It was not surprising to see a large number of visitors at Prent's CMEF booth which showcased innovative, high-quality thermoforming products," says Rafe Ma.

Ma is responsible for Prent sales activities in South China. "As a global medical thermoforming solution leader, Prent will continue to focus on providing customers with reliable products and quality service."



Prent Janesville Staff Support Community Children

Prent Janesville employees went above and beyond during the 2021 holiday season to support over 60 underprivileged children in the community with presents they wished to receive for Christmas. Prent employees upheld a long-standing holiday tradition in which gifts are purchased and provided to local children. The children's wishes adorned trees in the Prent break room and employees shopped for and wrapped goodies for the kids. Prent thanked all the team members who contributed to bringing joy to these children.



PRENT

Progress

Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow and Packaging Compliance Labs Co-founder and VP Ryan Erickson led the discussion at the recent webinar.



Handrow



Erickson

Webinar

Best Practices: Tray Design & Validation A Joint Perspective



Prent Partners with Packaging Compliance Labs for Best Practices Webinar

Prent and Packaging Compliance Labs collaborated on a recent Packaging Digest webinar titled “Best Practices & Package Risk Reduction for Medical Devices, with Thermoform Trays” that explained what to consider when determining if thermoform trays are a good option for your medical device packaging. Presenter Don Handrow says this educational tool is one of the many ways Prent helps its customers navigate the medical device industry to find solutions. “Prent isn’t just a supplier, we provide the resources you need to navigate the issues.”

Prent appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with Packaging Compliance Labs. “It was great to work with a top-notch industry professional to develop this educational presentation,” Handrow said. The hour-long webinar features what areas to examine if you currently use a thermoform tray, how to mitigate the risk of transit testing failures, and usability considerations for tray packaging. To access this free webinar, visit <https://bit.ly/3e7GKNL>.

Prent Perseveres Despite Pandemic-related Global Supply Chain Disruptions

2021 was an extremely challenging year with material shortages and supply chain disruptions impacting corporations around the world. “Raw material supply has been inconsistent dating back to last winter’s Texas storms,” Senior VP of Manufacturing Mark Rothlisberger said. “All raw material suppliers have extended lead times due to resin supply and labor availability.”

With proper planning and foresight, Prent has weathered the pandemic-related storm better than most, according to Rothlisberger. “Prent has responded by increasing inventory where possible and leveraging our in-house machine build to add production capacity quickly,” he said. “Prent’s global footprint allows our customers to relocate tooling to manufacture locally to their operations, reducing transit time to our customers’ facilities.”

“Prent has also increased communication with our customers so that purchase orders are placed well in advance, and we continue to identify business that should be relocated to other Prent manufacturing sites,” Senior VP of Sales Tom Schaffner added.

Prent has addressed the surge in orders that resulted from customers building up their inventories by quickly building more thermoforming equipment at its main headquarters, according to Schaffner. “We are also collaborating with our suppliers, including GOEX, to forecast, plan, and manage capacities to ensure they can accommodate Prent’s business,” he said.

“Prent continues to invest heavily in both people and technology to allow us the flexibility to continue to meet our customers’ ever-changing needs,” Rothlisberger said. Prent will continue to analyze supply chain vulnerabilities and implement the necessary strategies to weather future disruptions.

Pretainer Undergoes Testing

Prent is in the process of patenting and testing its new Pretainer, which standardizes small twist-to-open and slide-to-open retainers that can be implemented into any medical device package.

“Prent has performed multiple drop tests to help ensure there are no issues when the customer receives the final package,” says VP of Product Development Don Handrow. “We made a prototype tool and dummy product that mimics a customer’s part, loaded it, made a seal nest, sealed it with 1073B Tyvek lid stock, used a carton that simulates what it would be in a final packout, and performed preliminary transportation testing. We’ll continue to perform our own tests at UW-Stout in January to ensure it is a great solution for your business.”

The Pretainer allows for maximum product protection during shipment and can be easily disengaged, providing smooth aseptic transfer to the sterile field. Pretainers are available in several different sizes and housed in a design library so Prent designers can select from a standard retainer for many products. To find out more about using a Pretainer for your business, email sales@prent.com.



Prent Gets Creative to Hire and Retain Employees

Prent Janesville’s human resources department lent its creativity to a few new programs to overcome the labor shortage brought on by the pandemic in 2021. Last September, the team started a mentor program for new inspector/packer employees. The program pairs new hires with seasoned employees to extend training and ensure its newest employees feel welcome and comfortable in their new roles, says Director of Human Resources Amanda Pellizzi.

“The first week, new hires train with our trainer and meet their mentors. The second week, the new hire still works with the trainer, but is paired—and works more closely—with a mentor. The third and fourth weeks, the new hire continues to work closely with the mentor on jobs to which they are assigned. The fifth week and beyond, the new hire is scheduled on jobs without their mentor, but can always ask questions of the mentor,” Pellizzi said. After the first month, all new hires and their mentors are invited to a pizza party to recognize everyone’s hard work. At that time, the HR team asks for feedback to learn how we can improve the program, she explained.

“Our new hires have said how much they like the program as it helps them feel connected. They have someone they can ask questions of and get pointers from to complete their jobs successfully,” she said.

The HR team also started a “Walk-in Wednesdays” program where candidates can come on site for an interview and facility tour. “If candidates are a great fit, they are offered a position before leaving the facility. This has really helped speed up the interview process,” Pellizzi said. “We typically make anywhere from 10-20 offers during these events.” Prent also hosts job fairs that are longer events for interested candidates.

Prent’s HR team has also successfully retained employees with events like its golf outings and safety celebrations that offer catering and individual safety prizes/cash, and acts of appreciation including holiday meals, and a Thanksgiving turkey distribution.

Pictured above (left to right) are Prent Mentor Dawn Castle with Keith Jordan Jr.

In September 2021, Prent China General Manager Kuan Kean Hooi (pictured at right) was featured on the cover of “New City” magazine, which is published by the government of the Jiading District in Shanghai. The article introduced Prent China and highlighted its success as a leading thermoformer in the industry.



PRENT

People

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Kamal Bin Abdulla	Malaysia
Lai Chee Kong	Malaysia

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Baohua Ding	Shanghai
Allen Lauer	Janesville
Saiful Nizam Bin M	Malaysia
Alfred Wu	Shanghai
Richard Zhou	Shanghai

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Shengfang Cao	Shanghai
Kathy Lockhart	Janesville
Rosemary Nelson	Janesville
Ronghui Pan	Shanghai
Sanzang Qiao	Shanghai
Yonghai Qiu	Shanghai
Elijah Smith	Flagstaff
Juan Touma	Cost Rica
Ng Cheng Wei	Malaysia
Bajarangi Lal Yada	Malaysia

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Lourdes Alvarez	Janesville
Gloria Diaz Cosme	Janesville
Daniel Coulter	Janesville
Marianne Jørgensen	Denmark
Lauren Kuffer	Janesville
Mateusz Laskowski	Janesville
Foo Bao Li	Malaysia
Amber Long	Janesville
Armando Lopez	Janesville
Abigail Millard	Janesville
Francisco Ortiz	Janesville
Carmen Pena	Janesville
Joshua Peterson	Janesville
Alejandra Sanchez	Costa Rica
Saul Santiago	Puerto Rico
Emily Schult	Janesville
Melitza Torres	Janesville
Peipei Wang	Shanghai

Take a look inside for interviews with a couple of Prent employees celebrating major milestones of service.

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PRENT

People

Prent Malaysia and Prent China Honor Employees

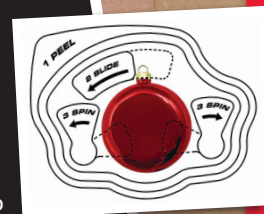


Prent Malaysia honored 40 employees, including its first 25-year service award recipient Senior CNC Programmer Chai Koh Heng, on December 7 with a presentation and luncheon at Le Grandeur Resort to celebrate their years of service.

Prent China also held its service award ceremony in Jiading on November 1. President and CEO of Prent Eurasia Bjarne Uhde Nielsen recognized the 50 award recipients' dedication and contributions. Those in attendance said they appreciated the opportunity to participate in the ceremony.

Sustainability is the Goal in 2021 Ornament Packaging

Using patent-designed packaging mechanisms and recyclable plastic, Prent designed a protective packaging marvel this holiday season that's both easy-to-use and eco-friendly. A Tyvek® seal keeps contents sterile until opened while patent-pending "Pretainers" help hold the ornament in the tray. You can spin and/or slide the patented retainers to remove the ornament. And, this leading-edge packaging design uses almost 70% less material than a traditional, full-tray retainer. Both the blue-tint tray and white retainers are made from MEDPET™ 90, a medical-grade polyester material extruded exclusively by GOEX. Used in a variety of thermoformed applications, MEDPET 90 features high clarity, impact resistance, and cost effectiveness. Sustainability is addressed through its ♻️ status. As the industry leader in custom thermoformed rigid packaging, Prent provides practical solutions for packaging applications while keeping sustainability as the ultimate goal in 2022 and beyond.



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Prent Chosen As A Top Plastics Manufacturing Company

Earlier this year, BestStartup.us included Prent Corporation in its 2021 list of 14 Top Plastics and Rubber Manufacturing Companies in Wisconsin. "We strive daily for excellence in innovation and providing our customers a perfect part and service. It is always great to be recognized for our hard work," said Marketing Manager Michelle Montgomery. BestStartup stated their top picks take a variety of approaches to innovating the plastics and rubber manufacturing industry, but are all exceptional companies well worth a follow. They selected companies for exceptional performance in these categories: innovation (ideas, route to market, and product); growth (exceptional growth strategy); management; and societal impact.

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

Cheryl Hills » Cleaning Person

1/6/16 – 10/1/21 Cheryl plans to travel around the United States to visit her family. She is also looking forward to going camping.

Roberta Hagan-Severson » Inspector/Packer

2/12/16 – 10/28/21 Roberta would like to help with fostering animals through the local rescue organization, Friends of Noah, and hopes to volunteer elsewhere in the community. She says she also has a lot of projects at home that she can work on.