

SPRING 2021



## Prent Rises to Customer Demands for Vaccines

Pharmaceutical companies were not the only ones scrambling to get COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits out to millions of people at lightning speed as the virus began to spread last year. Packaging companies like Prent Corporation worked behind the scenes to ensure these precious medical supplies are packaged and transported safely and quickly.

Prent has designed and produced 16 COVID-related products since the pandemic began—many of which required accelerating its processes for acquiring materials, designing, tooling, manufacturing, and shipping.

Healthcare packaging that traditionally takes several months to design and manufacture was shortened to only weeks due to the urgency of the pandemic and the universal desire to save lives.

When a current customer reached out to Prent earlier this year to produce millions of custom plastic tray inserts to hold kit components—and do so in record time—Prent jumped at the chance to join them in making a positive impact on defeating the pandemic. Prent successfully accommodated the customer's request through the collaborative effort of multiple departments that worked simultaneously to avoid any delays in the tight timeline. For example, during the piloting program, the Prent team produced sample trays and conducted a characterization study to ensure they met all requirements. That same day, a Prent sales representative drove samples to the customer to expedite the approval process. Prent also sped up the construction of its new Class 8 cleanroom in Janesville to accommodate the large demand on the manufacturing floor (see inside article). And, Prent hired necessary staff and trained them in record time to ensure seamless production and delivery.

In the global push to defeat the pandemic, Prent and its sister company GOEX collaborated together, and with their customers, to obtain quality materials, ensure customized production, and guarantee safe and timely delivery of COVID vaccines and test kits to those in need around the globe.

## UW-Stout Students Benefit from Prent Scholarships

The University of Wisconsin-Stout is one of only a few schools in America (and the only school in the UW System) that offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Packaging. For nearly 15 years, Prent has offered scholarships at UW-Stout to support those students pursuing a packaging degree.

Recipients must be full-time students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the packaging program and overall. The Stout University Foundation Scholarship Committee selects students based on their academic performance, letters of recommendation, professional and extracurricular activities, community involvement, and financial need.

We connected with two recipients, **UW-Stout senior Mariah Kent** and **2019 graduate Haley Seifert**, to find out how Prent's scholarship impacted their education and career aspirations, and here's what they shared:

Prent's scholarship covered UW-Stout graduate Haley Seifert's full tuition her last four semesters.

"When I received this scholarship, I had three required semesters left. But, because I had the option of going one more semester with this scholarship, I took advantage of the opportunity to take more classes. I also became the President of the Packaging Association of UW-Stout my last semester," Seifert said. "I am very thankful that I was able to take on the additional classes and opportunities. The scholarship greatly impacted my schooling and, ultimately, my career."

*(continued on the inside)*



prent.com



## Prent's New Cleanroom Completed in Record Time

Prent completed construction of an additional, state-of-the-art, ISO Class 8 certified cleanroom at its Janesville headquarters in record time this spring. While developing the cleanroom, a customer request for an expedited COVID test kit project pushed the completion of the cleanroom and its multiple production lines forward, cutting the construction time in half. The new cleanroom was the perfect way to add production capacity fast.

"The high-volume project required dedicated equipment and had a challenging timeline," says Prent Senior VP of Manufacturing Mark Rothlisberger. "Prent was able to reduce the cleanroom build time by six weeks, build additional thermoforming capacity in record time, and hire over 100 new employees in two weeks."

"Constructing the cleanroom was an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach," says Rothlisberger. "Employees worked overtime to install the equipment, and engineers stepped out of their usual roles to put machines together."

"This project is a perfect example of who Prent is as a company," he said. "The Prent team was challenged by a customer to react quickly without sacrificing the level of quality and service they have come to expect. Our employees came together to exceed those expectations and make the new cleanroom, the COVID test kit project, and the partnership with our customer a great success."

## Stop by the Prent Booth to Say Hello at these Upcoming Trade Shows Around the Globe

With restrictions being lifted in many areas, Prent plans to be at the following 2021 trade shows. Please visit [prent.com](http://prent.com) for any updates.

### ■ MD&M WEST

Anaheim, California  
August 10-12, 2021

### ■ HEALTHPACK

Atlanta, Georgia  
August 18-20, 2021

### ■ MEDTEC CHINA

Shanghai, China  
September 1-3, 2021

### ■ MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IRELAND (Pending)

Galway, Ireland  
September 22-23, 2021

### ■ MD&M MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
November 3-4, 2021  
*Prent Booth #2025*

### ■ MD&M EAST

New York, New York  
December 7-9, 2021

## Let's Get Technical: Vision Aided Trim

Prent's risk mitigation framework includes design and tool build services, fulfillment assistance, thermoform machine build, thermoforming, and most recently, a state-of-the-art vision aided, part trimming technology.

This new technology builds quality into the process by registering trim tooling with uncut thermoformed parts. Automated registration produces a more consistent flange width from part to part, and lot to lot, at no additional cost to the customer. The technology is critical as OEMs continue to elevate specifications.



*At left, a closeup of the "plus" registration mark engraved on every thermoformed part that enters the vision guided trim stations at all Prent facilities.*

Each tool cavity is engraved with a registration mark. During the thermoformer setup process, this mark is photographed and stored to help the software learn where the critical location of the mark is in relation to a part's flange width specification. As the part indexes from the forming station to the trimming station, a camera compares the location of the registration mark on the formed part versus the location of the saved picture and aligns both registration marks prior to the trimming process, according to Prent Manufacturing Engineer Josh Peterson. He and a team of engineers recently installed this system on Prent machines in its Arizona, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica facilities.

"The goal is to make the part's image and the saved image look the same after the movements. These fine adjustments mean the trimmed parts are cut much more precisely or in a tighter tolerance window," Peterson said.

"This system is revolutionary to Prent," says Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow. "The vision technology adds process control which reduces variability and results in greater control and consistency of product quality. It also allows Prent to continue the use of heated cut dies to minimize the opportunity for trim particulate." For more information about this technology, email [sales@prent.com](mailto:sales@prent.com).



### GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

#### Sean Xiao

Quality Assurance Manager  
Prent Shanghai

Sean Xiao began his career at Prent in Quality Assurance (QA) in 2007. He currently serves as Prent Shanghai's QA Manager and is responsible for ensuring supplier, factory, and customer quality. He also maintains and continuously improves Prent's Environmental/Quality Management System (E/QMS) to comply with ISO requirements and Prent's strategic vision.

Xiao says he really appreciates the team work at Prent. He feels that Prent Shanghai's success comes from the way its employees all work together.

Xiao was born and raised in the Hunan Province in the central south of China and holds a master's degree in material science. He had experience at Bosch Power Tools (China) Co., Ltd as a quality supervisor before joining the Prent Shanghai team. Outside work, Xiao enjoys hiking with his family on weekends.

Xiao shared a little known fact that he was impressed with Prent's corporate culture right from the start. Before the interview process with BJ Nielsen, Xiao was caught in a rainstorm and got his suit wet which gave him the chills. BJ noticed this and paused the interview, suggesting that Xiao do a warm-up exercise before continuing. Xiao says he has passed along this type of caring culture onto his entire staff ever since that day.



### Prent Malaysia Runs Internal Environmental Campaign

Prent Malaysia launched an environmental awareness campaign focusing on reusing resources and reducing waste to work towards its goal of a zero waste environment. Management distributed reusable lunch boxes to all staff, including a personalized thermal carrier bag, to further encourage the reduction of waste generated from single-use, plastic food packaging.



### Prent Janesville's Machine Build Facility Adds Space

A recent 15,000 sq. ft. addition to Prent's machine build facility in Janesville provides space for warehousing parts and assembly, and is improving the efficiency of the machine build process while increasing capabilities for the in-house slitting operation. Slitting allows Prent to rapidly obtain roll stock for customers' urgent order requests, often reducing lead times from weeks to days.



### Vaccine Opportunities Ongoing for Prent China Employees

The Chinese government implemented a free COVID-19 vaccination program for all citizens in March this year. Prent China was among the first companies invited to participate in this free vaccination program. On March 19, shuttle buses sent the first batch of 130 Prent employees to receive vaccinations. Prent China has encouraged all employees to participate.



### New GOEX Facility Scheduled to Be Complete in December

GOEX has started its construction of an additional manufacturing facility on a 20-acre site in Cedar City, Utah. The extrusion facility in Utah has a similar design to GOEX's Janesville site and will integrate standardized equipment and procedures that shorten lead times, increase capacity and reach more customers in the markets they serve. With an expected completion date of December 2021, the new facility will have full extrusion, warehouse, slitting, and rail spur capability. Like the Janesville plant, the Cedar City facility will be environmentally controlled and operationally certified to current standards for ISO 9001, FSSC22000 and IMS. Visit [goex.com](http://goex.com) for more details.

*Pictured above, the new GOEX building is being anchored by a utility tunnel that runs under the extrusion area, providing easy access to all mechanical systems and allowing for a clean, unencumbered production floor.*

## UW-Stout Students Benefit from Prent Scholarships *(continued from cover)*



Haley Seifert with Prent President/CEO Joe Pregont (left) and UW-Stout Packaging Program Director Roger Meisner (right) at the 2018 Prent Packaging Laboratories dedication at UW-Stout.

Being awarded full tuition for four semesters was a huge stress relief for Seifert. “I didn’t have to worry about paying for school and could focus more on my studies,” she said. “It also gave me confidence that I was on the right path to a degree in the packaging industry. And, it boosted my motivation to succeed in the classroom.” Seifert finished her last four semesters with a cumulative 3.97 GPA.

Mariah Kent, who plans to graduate from UW-Stout in December this year, echoed Seifert’s sentiments.

“This scholarship relieved the financial stress that tuition had on me, which provided me with the opportunity to focus on my education and remain involved in my school and community.” Kent is active in the Packaging Association of UW-Stout, Academic Honor Society, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, the Women’s Tennis Team, and is

also a Teaching Assistant for a beginning-level packaging class.

“I highly recommend students seek out the Prent scholarship,” Kent said. “Not only has it positively impacted me financially, but it also presented me with opportunities to network with the professionals at Prent.”

Both Seifert and Kent were familiar with Prent prior to applying for their scholarships, due to the continued presence Prent has on campus.

Prent has contributed financially to UW-Stout’s packaging program, co-developed a medical device class, and offered internships to students for decades. Prent President/CEO Joe Pregont serves as a guest speaker for several classes each semester, Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow sits on the Packaging Advisory Committee, and Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl sits on the Engineering Technology Advisory Board.

“I knew quite a bit about Prent before being awarded this scholarship,” Kent said. “I was familiar with the company because of its affiliation with UW-Stout’s career conference, which provides students the opportunity

to network with companies,” she said. “Prior to attending this career conference, I did a lot of research to understand Prent and its thermoform capabilities. I also had a classmate in my packaging courses who had worked at one of Prent’s facilities and spoke very highly of the company.”

Seifert had also heard about Prent in several of her courses. She was impressed by Prent’s partnership with the university. “Prent’s dedication and partnership with UW-Stout and the packaging program is remarkable. From making huge improvements to the packaging lab, to classroom presentations, co-op opportunities, and the list goes on—Prent is really committed to enhancing the packaging students’ experience,” she said.



Pictured at right, UW-Stout senior Mariah Kent.

As for advice these recipients would give to future packaging students, besides applying for a scholarship? They agree involvement is key. “My advice is to explore co-ops, career fairs, and to get involved,” Seifert said. Along with that, Kent says, “Find what you’re most passionate about in packaging [and pursue it].”

## Prent Enhances Its Online Presence

Prent unveiled a newly designed [prent.com](http://prent.com) in January. “The new and improved site is a helpful resource to learn more about the corporation as a whole, and access the latest about its operations, including an up-to-date trade show section and information about our newest facilities,” says Prent’s Marketing Administrator Max Handrow.

“Those visiting the site will get a more personal and in-depth understanding of Prent. The new site allows for more dynamic ways to get updates on Prent news, learn about employment opportunities, get a view into the design and manufacturing process, and be able to get content like our *NEWSPRENT* newsletter,” he said. Prent also continually updates its Facebook and Twitter sites, so you can visit those networks for Prent news as well.



## The Journey from Prent Intern to Employee

Kyle Zeilinger didn't have any expectations to land an internship, much less a full-time job, when he came across the Prent booth at a University of Wisconsin-Stout career fair in 2018. But, he soon discovered Prent would be a tremendous asset to further his education and experience in engineering. He learned more about Prent that day, set up an interview, and was offered a nine-month internship in tool design in the fall of that year.

UW-Stout requires its engineering students to participate in its Cooperative Education and Internship Program (CEIP) for credit. Prent hires two interns each semester, many of whom are from UW-Stout's engineering program. "Prent has a great relationship with UW-Stout," says Zeilinger. "Many of the interns go on to get a job here or somewhere related in the field." Prent has hired over 30 UW-Stout graduates, and many continue to be employed there.

Most students look for the required internship toward the end of their schooling at UW-Stout, but Zeilinger did things a little differently. "I took an uncommon route through college, starting as an art/graphic design major, and then switching to engineering after my first year, interning in the middle of my education, and then finishing my degree in five and a half years."

Zeilinger admits he would not have known how to get into design engineering without being offered the internship. "I wasn't really looking to pursue design engineering, but the Prent internship presented a great opportunity for me to go that direction," he said.

"After a couple years at UW-Stout, I was looking for a break. Being able to take a good internship and come home to Janesville for that nine months worked really well for me," Zeilinger said. "It gave me more motivation to go back and finish school and also have an idea of what to expect in the industry."

As an intern, Zeilinger gained a breadth of knowledge in engineering and product development design. He assisted with engineering tasks, 3-D modeling, developing project management skills, got firsthand experience with CNC programmers, and much more. "It was great to gain experience in a company that is constantly improving and expanding," he said.



While interning at Prent, Zeilinger was named a UW-Stout CEIP Student of the Year for showing a high level of personal motivation and talent. UW-Stout awards only those students who display great professionalism, a strong work ethic, and willingness to work through obstacles while going above and beyond job responsibilities.

Zeilinger graduated in December 2020 and was hired as a tool design engineer at Prent in January 2021. He says the job came at the right time. "With my experience as an intern, I could hit the ground running since I had a decent grasp on the details of the position. And, they have a great team of engineers, so it felt like a great fit."

# PRENT

People

## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

### 35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Brian Ede Janesville  
Darren Hamilton Janesville

### 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Chai Koh Heng Malaysia  
Darren Schroeder Janesville

### 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Wong Ngiam Chee Malaysia  
Hang Lee Choo Malaysia  
Pang Wei Moy Malaysia  
Thomas Schaffner Janesville

### 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Joseph Barrett Janesville  
Yaleidy Cesari Puerto Rico  
Laura Davis Janesville  
Jason Erickson Janesville  
Haiming Ge Shanghai  
Michele Heisz Janesville  
Soo Lily Malaysia  
Curtis Nyhus Janesville  
Christopher Parmer Janesville  
Stephan Sommer Janesville  
Connie Stevens Janesville  
Jian Xu Shanghai

### 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Kelli Buck Janesville  
Justin Cook Janesville  
Yuxia Ding Shanghai  
Lori Huber Janesville  
Kristine Langan Janesville  
Cale Mauel Janesville  
Delynn Peters Arizona  
Lillian Pino Puerto Rico  
Glenda Smith Janesville  
Pamela Weadge Janesville  
Dachun Xiao Shanghai  
Xiujuan Zhao Shanghai

### 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Namaraj Adhikari Malaysia  
Amirul Ashraf Bin Khairul Anuar Malaysia  
Steven Baertschi Janesville  
Bijay Basnet Malaysia  
Chetraj Basnet Malaysia  
Kimberly Bly Janesville  
Isabel Bradley Janesville  
Terri Brown Janesville  
Alexus Casiday Janesville  
Raj Kumar Chaudhary Malaysia  
Dipesh Kumar Chaudhary Malaysia

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2225 Kennedy Road  
Janesville, WI 53545

# PRENT

## People

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Bethany Christophersen	Janesville
Thomas Diedrick	Janesville
Andrew Fallon	Janesville
Jackie Frat	Janesville
Sonam Ghising	Malaysia
Stephanie Gritzmaker-Shaw	Janesville
Roberta Hagan-Severson	Janesville
Christopher Higgins	Arizona
Muhammad Azmi Bin Ismail	Malaysia
Henrik Jacobsen	Denmark
Steven Job	Janesville
Tyrell Johnson	Janesville
Christopher Johnson	Janesville
Marlene Jorgensen	Denmark
Ang Jun Qi	Malaysia
Lori Kasten	Janesville
Binod Prasad Sahani Kewat	Malaysia
Govinda Bahadur Khadka	Malaysia
Ratna Subedi Khatri	Malaysia
Sant Bahadur Lama	Malaysia
Erik Larson	Janesville
Thye Zhi Lei	Malaysia
Jackie Lewis	Janesville
Debrah Love	Janesville
Alejandra Marin	Costa Rica
Connie Martin	Janesville
Manoj Kumar Niraula	Malaysia
Chelsea Prince	Janesville
Shashi Shekhar Puri	Malaysia
Julie Rademacher	Janesville
Pradip Rai	Malaysia
Kirsty Ravello	Arizona
Martha Schoppe	Janesville
Edward Shi	Shanghai
Tavia St. John	Janesville
Biraj Tamang	Malaysia
Eric Velez	Puerto Rico
Fengqiong Yu	Shanghai
Raja Anis Aniza Binti Raja Mohd Yusof	Malaysia
Raja Nazatulnadia Bte Raja Mohd Yusof	Malaysia
Colin Zhang	Shanghai

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## A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

### **Sue Tracy** » Inspector/Packer

**9/9/2011–3/15/2021** Sue is looking forward to traveling and spending quality time with friends and family.

### **Audrey Lueck** » Inspector/Packer

**4/5/2013–3/4/2021**

### **Judy McRoberts** » Utility Clerk

**7/18/2014–4/2/2021** Judy plans to travel and continue her volunteer efforts. She also mentioned that her husband says she is going to have to learn how to relax!

### **Alice Wilson** » Inspector/Packer

**10/7/2016–1/4/2021** Alice plans to help her son out with his business and will also enjoy her hobbies, including snowmobiling.

## Prent China and Janesville Earn New Certifications



In March this year, **Prent China** was certified ISO 14001:2015 by Intertek. Prent China is committed to environmental protection through excellent management on all aspects of its activities, products and services. The ISO 14001 standard is internationally recognized and provides practical tools for organizations to manage their environmental responsibilities. It is an effective means for identifying and systematically reducing potentially harmful impacts on the environment, according to total quality assurance provider Intertek. The ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems standard can provide assurance to a company's employees, customers and stakeholders that potential environmental impacts are being measured and improved.

**Prent Janesville** recently earned an ISO 14644-1 Class 7 Cleanroom classification, which utilizes HEPA filtration systems to maintain air cleanliness levels of a maximum of 10,000 particles ( $\geq 0.5\mu\text{m}$ ) per cubic foot. Without these ISO guidelines, manufactured products can become contaminated by outside pollutants, which can reduce a product's efficiency and/or ability to be used by consumers. This type of clean environment is imperative to creating safer products.