

Inside Firwin – Recognition Awards to Two Long Standing Employees

Firwin recently honored two long standing employees. Jon Miles, Firwin's Design & New Product Development Manager, was recognized for 10 years of loyal service, while Debbie German, Firwin's Factory Manager, was recognized for being with the company for an incredible 25 years!

"We brought in this policy when we acquired to the company some 20 years ago ",said Miriam Herman, Firwin's vice-president. "I think it's important to give people recognition for years of faithful service", added Miriam.



Jon Miles was hired by Firwin as a designer 10 years ago. It was his 3rd job out of university, having worked previously for a roof rack manufacturer and a metal fabricator. How have things changed for Jon over the last 10 years? "When I started with Firwin, we were still doing manual drawings of blanket patterns on actual cards", reminisced Jon. "Eventually, we moved up to CAD and a plotter, then to 3D modeling, and finally to a fully automated cutting machine." What's next? "It's hard to say how design technology will progress, but perhaps 3D virtual modeling is something that could be feasible for us", said Jon.



Debbie German, Firwin's factory manager, also came to Firwin in her 3rd job out of school, after working in a couple of office secretarial jobs. What made her switch from an office environment to a factory? "I didn't like serving people coffee", said Debbie. "I didn't ask for a restaurant job!"

When Debbie started 25 years ago, she was the only person in the factory. "I was the factory; I did it all - cutting, sewing, fastening hooks, packing, shipping, ...", remembers Debbie. "Now, of course, it is much different - lots of people, more automated, and better quality".

25 years is like a lifetime, notes Debbie. "Since I joined Firwin, I've gotten married, had 3 kids ... people are surprised when I tell them I've been with the same company for 25 years. Paul and Miriam are good people to work for", added Debbie.

In addition to the plaque and recognition, Jon received an engraved sports watch, while Debbie, on to her third milestone (Firwin also recognized her contribution



at 10 and 18 years) received a brand new dining room set. "It's our way of saying 'thank you'" said Miriam.