



Bill Wydra

Ashland Technologies, Inc.

Skyline Attractions, LLC, Skyline Design, LLC

Celebration Hospitality Group, LLC (Honolulu Hot Dog)

As an entrepreneur, Bill Wydra is the founder of several different companies, mostly related to the manufacturing sector. Bill's companies have implemented some interesting strategies around talent development including, but not limited to, The CNC Training Academy and the very popular Top Gun Welding Competition and *SKYNEXT* event for amusement industry engineers.

Wydra's first company, Ashland Technologies, Inc. has been ranked on the INC500/5000 fastest growing US companies list for five consecutive years. Once ranked as the #1 fastest growing manufacturer in Pennsylvania and #55 in the country. Other accolades included FIVE (5) amusement industry Brass Ring Innovation Awards that most companies strive to get one in their lifetime, being honored as a Top 10 Machine Shop in the country by American Machinist Magazine, and winning the Manufacturer's Innovation Award. Mr. Wydra attributes all of this growth and success to the incredibly talented and dedicated people on his team.

When Mr. Wydra founded the company 27 years ago, he developed a written company constitution that aligns all employee beliefs and values to keep a steady and straight drum beat on how they do business. With the vision of becoming the "First International Chain of Machine Shops", the company has grown into six (6) operating divisions spread throughout the company's four (2) US locations. Although they can make just about anything, there is strong focus on areas where they can "Turn Metal into Thrills". As such, their target markets include amusement/rollercoaster, food service equipment, and energy sectors worldwide, thus leading to Wydra's ownership in Skyline Design, Skyline Attractions, and Honolulu Hot Dog Company.

Mr. Wydra is a very active advocate for small US manufacturing and economic development, including current and former board positions, including the Manufacturing Resource Center (former chairman), Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, Schuylkill County Chamber of Commerce (past President), and Orange County Community College Technology Advisory Board, Manufacturing Association of Central Florida (MACF), and "Made In America" Board of Directors.

Wydra has been honored numerous times for his outstanding contributions to business and community; recent awards include Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce Businessman of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year awards, Manufacturing Excellence Award and Business Journal Top 20 Under 40 and finalist for the Earnst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

A graduate of George Mason University with degrees in Marketing, Economics and Finance, Mr. Wydra's philosophy on business is to empower all his employees and business partners to break the mold of convention and mediocrity and make the "impossible" possible.

A native of Pennsylvania, he lives there with his wife Angela and their 15-year old twin boys, 14 and 8-year old daughters, all of whom share Bill's passion for thrills, adventure, and travel even at a young age.