

# Herbert W. Vanden Brul

## ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD

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### **Michael Mandina**

*President, Optimax*

Mike Mandina is the co-founder and president of Optimax, a precision optics manufacturer in Ontario, N.Y. Today, the company has more than 350 teammates; more than 300 are highly skilled technicians, engineers and scientists. A master optician himself, Mike has received numerous honors and awards for his leadership and industry success.

Mike was one of the founders of the Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise (FAME). Through his involvement with several industry organizations, Mike is committed to addressing the current skills gap and aligning the educational system with industry needs to strengthen the region by establishing a vibrant high-tech manufacturing community.



### **Richard Plympton**

*CEO, Optimax*

Rick Plympton is the CEO of Optimax, a precision optics manufacturer in Ontario, NY. He provides the leadership and vision needed to position Optimax as America's largest prototype optics manufacturer.

He is actively involved in the optics industry and supporting area colleges. Rick currently sits on the Finger Lakes Community College Foundation Board, the Board of the Rochester Regional Photonics Cluster, is Vice Chair of the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board and is participating in an Aspen Institute Fellowship for Job Quality.

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## ABOUT THE AWARD

The Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award, established in 1984, is given annually to an individual who has successfully managed the development of a new "emerging" business within the Greater Rochester Community and is an inspiration for others to become an entrepreneur.