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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Manko Window Systems awarded for efforts to make working and breastfeeding easier for employees

Manhattan, KS, November 20, 2024 – Manko Window Systems, Inc. has received the Silver Level “Breastfeeding Employees Support Award” from the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition and its *Business Case for Breastfeeding* program.

The award is based on proven and established standards to benefit employers and employees. It recognizes businesses that provide support services to their breastfeeding employees, to include education as well as the time and space for employees to nurse and/or pump breastmilk at their workplace. The award, the middle ranking of three sponsored by the Coalition, was presented by Brenda Bandy, Executive Director of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition.

According to Bandy, Manko Window Systems received the award for achieving a high level of employee support as outlined in the Coalition’s criteria. She said they provide a beautiful lactation room, allow flexible time to pump, and have a written policy of breastfeeding support.

Pointing out that many breastfeeding mothers abandon breastfeeding when they return to work because they lack the support and appropriate facilities at their place of employment, Bandy said, “We want to help change that unfortunate situation”. She cited research showing that adequate support for breastfeeding employees benefits businesses through savings in health care expenses, reduced turnover rates, lower absenteeism, and increased employee loyalty. Employers that have established support services for

breastfeeding employees have reported a \$3 for \$1 return on investment plus realizing a more productive working environment.

"Many Kansas employers recognize the benefits of supporting their breastfeeding employees. We want to shine the spotlight on as many employers as possible for doing their part to make returning to work while breastfeeding easier. This will encourage more businesses to follow suit," says Stephanie Rupnicki, Chair of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Board of Directors.

Businesses that provide support services for their breastfeeding employees can be considered for a "Breastfeeding Employees Support Award" at the bronze, silver and gold levels. Applications are available at

http://www.kansasbusinesscase.com/for_employers/employer_awards .

The *Business Case for Breastfeeding* is a program to assist employers in developing or enhancing support services for their breastfeeding employees. The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition is a non-profit 501(c) 3 with the mission of working collaboratively to promote and protect breastfeeding in order to improve the health of Kansas families.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or would like to schedule an interview with Brenda Bandy, call (785) 477-4666 or email bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org .