Two professors of the Michigan State University College of Engineering are finalists for 2017 Manufacturing Leaders Awards – a North American recognition for leaders of change, innovation, and excellence in industry and manufacturing.

Evangelyn Alocilja, professor of biosystems and agricultural engineering, and Prem Chahal, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, are among those invited to the black-tie celebration on Nov. 30 in Boston, Mass.

Their research projects are sponsored by the Midland Research Institute for Value Chain Creation (MRIVCC).

Alocilja’s project is a finalist in sustainable manufacturing and is titled “Nano-Bioelectric Technique for Novel Microbial Interventions.” This research investigates the use of nanomaterials to lower the risk of foodborne illness and increase shelf life of food products without increasing the use of preservatives.

Chahal’s project is a finalist in manufacturing innovation, is titled “Passive RFID Sensing Technology for Monitoring of Complex Product Supply Chain” and focuses on the use of active radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to
prevent product contamination, counterfeiting, piracy and loss of capital.

“We are thrilled that two projects from our research portfolio, which are addressing critical world challenges, are being recognized as finalists for this award,” said Katherine A. Franz, MRIVCC executive director. “It’s exciting to have an organization representing the world’s leading brands validate the importance of our projects and it energizes us as we continue to sponsor efforts that identify innovative solutions to global issues.”

The awards bring together the biggest organizations across North America to celebrate American industry and champion manufacturers that are leading change, pioneering innovation and driving excellence in their organizations, Franz said. IBM, Stanley Black & Decker, AkzoNobel, Thermo Fisher, BASF, and Walmart are among the other companies named finalists in six categories. Finalist projects include examples of implementing 3D printing, robotics, and business-critical cost-saving schemes.

The Manufacturing Leaders Award is judged by a panel of corporate executives including Campbell Soup’s former CEO Douglas Conant, as well as leaders from Goodyear, Stanley Black & Decker, Staples, Pentair, and Maple Leaf.

About MRIVCC
The Midland Research Institute for Value Chain Creation is a premier research and education facility dedicated to developing effective and sustainable solutions to improve all types of public and private value chains. Established by Michigan State University in 2013, MRIVCC conducts cross-disciplinary research, with input from our corporate partners, in areas such as value chain optimization, data analytics, engineering, smart packaging, anti-counterfeiting, and water and food safety. The Institute was founded by leaders in value chain creation and development at MSU, including the Eli Broad College of Business, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Engineering, College of Social Science, and School of Packaging. Founding donors include The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, and the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation. Visit MRIVCC’s website at mrvcc.com for more information about the Institute, its programs and services.

Story courtesy of the Midland Research Institute for Value Chain Creation.

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