

Vitou Earns 2023 Robert K. Callahan Advancing Leaders Award

In the past 12 years, Alex Vitou's ambition and passion for the power transmission/motion control (PT/MC) industry has led him to push boundaries, and he shows no sign of slowing. It's this tenacity which earned him recognition as the 2023 Robert K. Callahan Advancing Leaders Award recipient.

Colleagues at Dodge Industrial, Inc., describe Alex as an extraordinary young professional who demonstrates maturity and leadership skills that are ahead of his time, as evident from his career with the company, which has been far from uneventful.

In 2011, after earning a degree in mechanical engineering from Clemson University, Vitou became applications engineer with the Bearing & PT team. The following year he shifted to research and development, where he was integral in the development, testing and launching of the Dodge Raptor Coupling—one of Dodge's most successful products. Vitou moved to Product Design Engineering before advancing as head of the department, responsible for all application engineering. In October 2022, he assumed the plant manager role, managing the Belton, S.C., plant.

Vitou is deeply invested in the PT/MC industry and believes the most pivotal component of his job is management. He places emphasis on transparency in strategy and fostering a culture where people can speak freely with members of leadership. Having enjoyed great mentorship throughout his career at Dodge, Vitou is eager to pass the same experience on to his team. He's committed to ensuring his employees



Alex Vitou, Dodge Industrial

feel safe, understand their roles, are equipped with the right tools and remain happy. This same sentiment extends to customers with whom Alex takes pleasure in connecting, learning about their struggles and collaborating on finding solutions. Throughout this on-the-job learning, Vitou also continued his academic pursuits, earning an MBA from Anderson University in South Carolina.

Additionally, Alex is passionate about talent development, coaching and bringing new people into the industry. Vitou shares that Dodge has done a great job creating pipelines with colleges and universities for faster, easier hiring and to get more people into the field.

"Getting information about the PT/MC industry into the hands of the younger generation is imperative," Alex said.

"We have been working on introducing STEM to grade school students to pique their interest right from the start."

In his outreach to the younger generation, Alex promotes moving outside one's comfort zone. He knows the value of networking, both inside and outside of the organization, and believes building as many relationships as possible is essential.

"Establish those connections and don't be afraid to seek help. Allowing people to be of assistance to you is equally beneficial to them. Don't be afraid to take a risk and try something new. Communicate your thoughts to others and simply be kind," Vitou shares. ■

You may contact and congratulate Alex at avitou@dodgeindustrial.com.