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News Release

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Wholesale Boutique, Distributor of Viv&Lou, Presented with Excellence Award

South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a private, non-profit group that serves as a proven resource to South Carolina businesses, providing them with a range of innovative strategies and solutions, presented Wholesale Boutique the Transformation and Operational Excellence Award for a Minority business at the 20th Annual Salute to Manufacturing Awards Luncheon on September 12, 2018. This award was presented to Wholesale Boutique because they have demonstrated to the business community real world, bottom line results achieved through the adoption of continuous improvement and operational excellence tools and techniques.

Denise Thigpen, 2016 South Carolina's Female Business Person of the Year, is the founder of Wholesale Boutique and the lifestyle brand Viv&Lou. The company is a supplier of bags, accessories, apparel, and home goods. Wholesale Boutique and Viv&Lou's products are sold to over 4,500 retailers as well as direct to consumers through their websites. The exclusively designed products are fun, fashionable, and perfect for personalization.

Exceptional business practices, tools, and technological innovations have transformed and fostered the growth of Wholesale Boutique from 22 full-time employees in a 10,000 square foot facility to as many as 84 full-time employees in a 68,000 square foot facility in recent years, over tripling sales during that time. Inc. 5000 magazine recognized the exponential growth in 2016 by placing Wholesale Boutique on its list of fastest growing private companies.

Focused on empowering entrepreneurs and women, Thigpen is certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC). She continues to make a mark on the industry by consistently striving to take the next step, and be willing to make changes. She recognizes and expands on what works and learns from what doesn't. Thigpen attributes the success of Wholesale Boutique to the work ethic taught to her at a young age by her parents, her hard-working staff, and her loyal customers.

“Owning a business is a never ending process of small steps, if you don't take the next step you will stay exactly where you are. A successful business doesn't just happen; you have to make it happen.” -Denise Thigpen, Founder of Wholesale Boutique

For more information, please visit www.WholesaleBoutique.com and www.Vivandlou.com.

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