

Waukesha Foundry Forges New Scholarship Program for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Engineering Students

WAUKESHA, Wis. (March, 2012) – Waukesha Foundry is partnering with UW-Milwaukee to ensure access to a highly skilled workforce for the future. In late January, Ken Kurek, president and CEO of Waukesha Foundry, signed a five-year, \$25,000 commitment to fund two scholarships per school year in UWM's College of Engineering & Applied Science (CEAS).

Each scholarship is \$2,500, which covers more than 30 percent of UWM's annual tuition averaging \$8,000 for two full-time semesters. UWM is one of the few institutions in Wisconsin with a foundry lab, and students can pursue up to doctoral level education in this area.

While many companies offer internships or co-ops, a scholarship eases the burden students bear when they have to work part time to pay for tuition.

“Student scholarships are an investment in human capital. The relationships that Waukesha Foundry builds with student engineers will be critical to the company's ongoing success and technological edge over global competition,” said Tien-Chien Jen, Ph.D., ASME Fellow; Interim Dean, College of Engineering & Applied Science, Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department.

“Considering that roughly 90 percent of our CEAS graduates remain in Southeast Wisconsin upon graduation, this investment will particularly benefit Wisconsin-based companies and institutions,” added Dean Jen.

Students who are selected for the Waukesha Foundry scholarships will be exposed to variety of experiences including mass transport, physical metallurgy, thermodynamics, casting, and quality assurance. Nearly every engineering expertise can find a home in the casting field.

However, finding qualified employees has been a challenge for the industry. “The goal of the scholarship program is to attract engineering students to careers available in the foundry business, and to our company in particular,” explains Kurek. “Our clean, high-tech foundry offers automation, computer simulation, research and development opportunities.”



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Many engineering students are learning that the foundry industry is poised for growth after several years of mergers and acquisitions - only the most progressive and competitive foundries remain. Increased competition from foundries in countries with lower labor and materials costs such as China require that U.S. foundries find new ways to compete. This need to remain competitive through innovation is one of the main reasons that Waukesha Foundry is partnering with UWM's CEAS.

The foundry lab in CEAS is developing important, cutting-edge metal technologies that many organizations and countries are helping to finance, such as the U.S. Army, Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and major U.S. manufacturers.

Dr. Pradeep Rohatgi, State of Wisconsin and UWM Distinguished Professor, Materials Department, Director of UWM Centers for Composites and Advanced Materials Manufacture, provided an overview of the university's latest venture - the Center for Advanced Materials Manufacturing (CAMM). In spring of 2011, the Center was given an additional 10,000 square-foot facility located off campus on Capital Drive in Milwaukee. "We are working on technologies that apply to advanced foundry applications, including the manufacture of micro and nano-composites, self-healing, self-cleaning, self-lubricating, wear-resistant energy absorbing foam, and high-thermal conductivity materials all made through casting processes. UWM is considered a world leader in these areas."

Kurek sits on the CAMM advisory board, along with engineering executives throughout the U.S. The Center's work is designed to transfer the technologies it develops directly to the foundry and manufacturing industries locally, regionally and nationally.

That's exciting for Waukesha Foundry, which is a casting leader in food processing equipment, petrochemical, aircraft tooling and defense.

Since the 1980s, Waukesha Foundry has been the leader in casting technology for aircraft composites. The company has logged more complex projects than anyone else in the industry. The level of trust in Waukesha Foundry's expertise is evident with recent projects, including production of composite components for the Lockheed Martin F35 Joint Strike Fighter and the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.



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In 2012, Waukesha Foundry will celebrate its 100th anniversary. A century ago, foundries were drawn to the region based on abundant sand deposits. Now, they are developing a firm foundation built on experience, innovation, research, and funding for education.

The promise Waukesha Foundry gives to its customers is that it will continue to be a leading global provider of cast tooling and components for the next 100 years. For more information, visit www.waukeshafoundry.com.

The application process will be announced this spring. All UWM undergraduate engineering students with a junior standing or above and a 3.0 GPA will be eligible to apply for the scholarships. In addition, Waukesha Foundry will also offer UWM engineering students the opportunity to apply for two paid summer internship positions in 2012.

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