

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

For nearly 30 years, the mission of the SME Education Foundation has been to attract and develop the future manufacturing workforce by acquiring and intelligently applying resources to support the advancement of manufacturing education. As we close 2008, I am pleased to report that the SME Education Foundation remains true to our founding tenets.

Through our partnerships with like-minded corporations, organizations, foundations and you, the individual donor, we have been able to continue to *inspire, support* and *prepare* the next generation of manufacturing engineers and technologists.

**Inspire:** Once again, our youth activities rose to the forefront. In 2008, we impacted the lives of more than 4,000 middle and high school students across the nation through our Gateway Camps, Gateway Academies and sMe Institutes. In 2009, we will fund 220 programs and serve over 5,000 students.

**Support:** We continue to assist our next generation of manufacturing engineers and technologists through our scholarship program. In 2008, we awarded nearly \$600,000 in scholarships to more than 200 students across the country. In 2009, we anticipate awarding almost \$700,000 to deserving students.

In 2008, in partnership with 3M, we recognized 15 outstanding instructors through our Building the Future Award program. These instructors were selected from nominees across the country for their dedication to America's young people, opening doors and providing the inspiration to help young learners consider the possibilities of an engineering career.

It is because of the commitment and dedicated work of the Foundation Board of Directors, committees and staff that we have been able to accomplish so much. Even with the current economic uncertainty, in 2009, we plan to move forward boldly, to continue to forge partnerships with new corporations and foundations, and seek to increase our endowments so that we can continue to *inspire, support* and *prepare* young people to pursue careers in manufacturing and manufacturing technology.

All of this was possible because of you, our donors. Thank you! Because of you and your commitment to the work of the SME Education Foundation, we can move forward in confidence that we *can and will* change the state of the nation by preparing the future generation to compete in a global economy and keep our nation on the leading edge of innovation and creativity.

Sincerely,



Khalil S. Taraman, PhD, FSME, PE  
President – 2009  
SME Education Foundation

