



Dear Friends:

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation has nurtured manufacturing and engineering's future generation for 26 years. With a strategic mix of programs, supported by an active, diverse board and partners willing to work with us and support us through their donations, SME Education Foundation has made a real and ongoing impact on America's manufacturing future.

In the past year, the Education Foundation has enhanced its youth outreach program — Science, Technology & Engineering Preview Summer (STEPS) — and expanded the scholarship and the college/university grants programs — all designed to support manufacturing education and encourage engineering-related careers.

Since its creation the SME Education Foundation has championed the needs of students while also serving America's long-term interests by persistently seeking to:

- **Inspire** more young people to become excited about mathematics, engineering, science and technology and engaged early in exploring careers in manufacturing and engineering. In its 10-year history, STEPS programs have reached more than 4,000 middle and high school students. In partnership with Project Lead The Way (PLTW) in 2006 we have enhanced our STEPS program to offer STEPS Academies. This new program, with a standardized PLTW curriculum, introduces engineering to fifth and sixth graders and then links them with the highly successful PLTW, *Gateway to Technology* middle school pre-engineering curriculum. Based on our success with STEPS Academy in 2006, we will expand the number of Academies dramatically in 2007 to over 50 in 13 states.
- **Support** motivated students through scholarships that enable them to pursue their dreams. Since 1998 SME Education Foundation has provided over \$2.5 million in scholarships, funding the academic dreams of hundreds of students.
- **Prepare** graduates to "hit the ground running" through our Manufacturing Education Plan (MEP) grant program. An investment of more than \$15.5 million has acted as a catalyst to encourage collaboration between industry and educational institutions resulting in industry-driven curricula and programs.

Our society depends on technical advances made by engineers and scientists to solve many critical problems and keep our economy moving forward. We all depend on the decisions of our young people, who will learn by the examples we set. We must show them the way. Please consider joining us in setting the example and making a difference in their — and all of our — lives.

Sincerely,

Glen H. Pearson

President 2007

SME Education Foundation

