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*The Voice of the Industrial Base*

May 19, 2008

Glen Pearson  
President  
SME Education Foundation  
One SME Drive  
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

Dear Mr. Pearson,

The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) is America's leading Defense Industry association promoting national security. With more than 1,440 member companies, and over 56,000 individual members, four self-sustaining affiliate associations, 52 chapters and 32 functionally-oriented divisions, NDIA represents a broad constituency across the aerospace, defense and homeland security industries. Our mission is to

- **ADVOCATE:** Cutting-edge technology and superior weapons, equipment, training, and support for the War-Fighter and First Responder
- **PROMOTE:** A vigorous, responsive, Government – Industry National Security Team
- **PROVIDE:** A legal and ethical forum for exchange of information between Industry and Government on National Security issues

The U.S. aerospace, defense and homeland security industries face challenges in filling some of the best and most critical technical jobs in our country. The U.S. is not producing enough graduates trained in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) who qualify for security clearances. The problem presents a serious risk for national security over the next decade, as Baby Boomers retire without an employable talent pipeline to replace them.

Because maintaining a highly skilled U.S. aerospace, defense and homeland security workforce is critical to America's security and economic well-being, we have searched for ways to head off that shortage. We recently established a STEM Workforce Division whose goal is to increase the supply of quality, clearable STEM employees by leveraging the resources of our members, chapters, divisions and affiliates, working in conjunction with government, and partnering with educational organizations to raise awareness and accelerate the growth of existing, proven, initiatives.

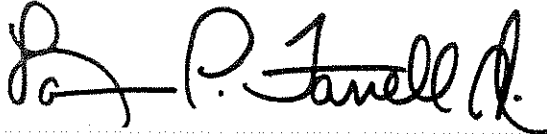
As a result of this effort, we are pleased to have learned about the programs supported by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation (SME-EF) and to provide you with our strong endorsement. Your Foundation provides programs that address pressing issues in the United States – K-14 STEM Education and career/workforce development. We believe that the SME Education Foundation is positioned to assist organizations like NDIA in providing proactive

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solutions that will increase the quantity and quality of young people entering the engineering and skilled labor fields that are crucial to the continued security of our nation.

Mr. Pearson, we are delighted to hear that you will work with NDIA members, chapters, divisions, affiliates and defense industry companies in bringing STEM programs to school districts across the country. Through our collaborative efforts, we will succeed in providing educational opportunities that will lead to a STEM literate and skilled workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. P. Farrell, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Lawrence P. Farrell, Jr  
Lieutenant General, USAF (Retired)  
President and CEO