

In 2024, our SME Education Foundation team remains committed to inspiring, preparing, and supporting the next wave of manufacturing and engineering talent. This quarterly report showcases our efforts and achievements, aiming to inform and hopefully inspire you to join us in our mission. Together, we can build a bright future for the manufacturing and engineering industry.

Feature Stories

SME Education Foundation Awards Nearly \$900k in Scholarships to Students Pursuing Manufacturing Careers

In 2024, the SME Education Foundation awarded over 130 scholarships to students pursuing a post-secondary education in manufacturing, engineering, or related fields. This year, nearly \$900,000 was awarded to graduating high school seniors, undergraduates, and graduate students. Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded over \$18 million to over 5,000 deserving students. On June 3rd, we celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of 17 exceptional students from across the US at the International Awards Gala. These remarkable individuals confidently crossed the stage to accept scholarship awards that will propel them toward success in their pursuit of excellence in manufacturing and engineering education. To date, we have awarded nearly \$900k to emerging talent. We are incredibly proud to support their journey in shaping the future of the industry! [Read the full story here](#) →



Feature Stories (continued)

SkillsUSA

Celebrating a decade of excellence, our SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta was a thrilling event! This year, enthusiastic middle school students joined high school and post-secondary participants, all gaining hands-on experience with cutting-edge 3D-printing technology and software. A total of 97 students showcased their skills, competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals! A huge thank you to our partners for helping us introduce students to additive manufacturing early, paving the way for future career pathways: Stratasys, Autodesk, SOLIDWORKS, MakerBot, Allegheny Educational Systems, Printed Solid, and THEFUTUREOFJEWELRY (TFOJ.COM). Their support is invaluable! [Read the full story here →](#)



ME Story Features

APRIL: New Scholarship Honors Planned-Giving Wishes

Funded with a nearly seven-figure, transformational gift from the estate of Jerry Wickman, the SME Education Foundation has created the Jerry L. Wickman Scholarship — geared toward providing need-based support to Latina students. [Read the full story here →](#)

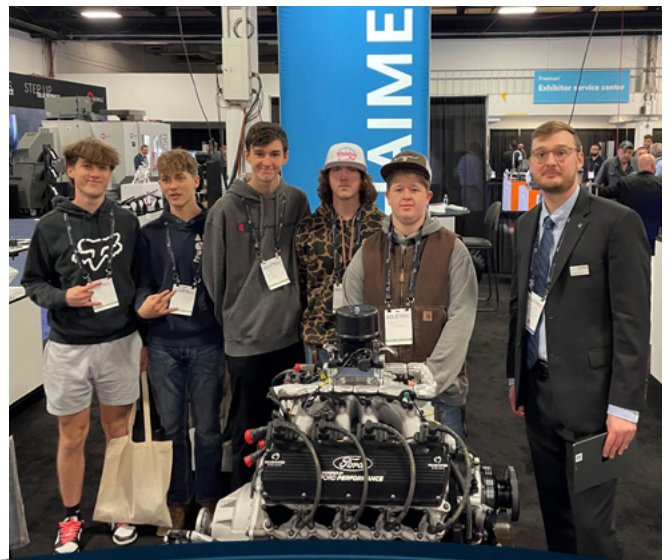
MAY: Haimer USA Funds SME Scholarships

Haimer USA invests in the SME Education Foundation, donating \$25,000 to fund two scholarships. “We thought this would be a great opportunity for us to participate in something that really helps the next generation of people get into our industry,” says Brendt Holden, Haimer USA. [Read the full story here →](#)



JUNE/JULY: Georgia High Schools Benefit From Implementation of SME PRIME

Manufacturing and engineering students at Georgia’s Bryan County High School (BCHS) and Monroe High School (MHS) are reaping the benefits of new, advanced manufacturing technology and training opportunities that have been provided by the SME Education Foundation’s SME PRIME® (Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education) initiative since the Georgia Department of Education partnered with the Foundation in early 2023. [Read the full story here →](#)



New SME Education Foundation Donors

The SME Education Foundation extends deep gratitude to the generous donors who make it possible for us to do what we do. Your support is the backbone of our mission, enabling us to offer life-changing opportunities to the next generation of skilled manufacturing and engineering talent. Together, we are shaping a bright future for the students and the manufacturing industry!



SME Education Foundation on the Move

Our team is always on the go, connecting with schools, students, and more, working hard to shape the future of the industry and guide the way for the next generation of manufacturing and engineering talent. Check out some highlights from the second quarter of our team hard at work:

New SME PRIME Programs Take Off in Michigan

Our SME PRIME team is making amazing progress! 17 new schools in Michigan were selected this spring to receive SME PRIME programs for the 2024-2025 school year. All 17 new schools received their SME PRIME curriculum plans in May, informed by both individual comprehensive workforce needs assessments as well as individual regional market research. As part of each schools' Body of Knowledge workshop, educators and industry partners who contributed to the assessment met to review and affirm the curriculum plans, identify in-demand skills, review regional workforce needs, and much more. Over just four days, our dedicated team conducted 13 of these impactful meetings with educators and members of the manufacturing community across the state!



First Robotics Competition

In April, our SME Education Foundation had the exciting opportunity to exhibit at the FIRST Robotics Competition in Houston, Texas. The atmosphere was electric with the participants' passion, skill, and commitment, truly inspiring! Among the competition, we were thrilled to run into SME PRIME students from South Forsyth and Troy High School. Witnessing firsthand the knowledge and confidence students gain through the SME PRIME program was incredibly rewarding and showcased the powerful impact of hands-on learning beyond the classroom.



Georgia CTAE Manufacturing Workforce Innovation Summit

At Kia Georgia in West Point, the Georgia Department of Education hosted the dynamic CTAE (Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education) Workforce Summit, showcasing groundbreaking educational programs. Rob Luce, VP of the SME Education Foundation, took the stage, highlighting the remarkable success of the SME PRIME program alongside local SME PRIME educators and manufacturing partners showcasing its pivotal role in transforming education and preparing students for futures in the manufacturing industry.



SME Education Foundation on the Move (continued)

What School Could Be: Transformational Innovations

The SME Education Foundation was invited to participate in a discussion surrounding innovative education programs across the state. With state legislators, industry leaders in attendance, and Governor Whitmer as the guest of honor, the Foundation showcased the remarkable success of the SME PRIME program at Airport High School in Monroe, MI, spotlighting the program's transformative impact on education and workforce development.



SME Education Foundation's Impact Discussed at the Capitol Hill

Rob Luce, VP of the SME Education Foundation, and Jeannine Kunz, Chief Workforce Development Officer, and Sheronda Carr, engaged in high-level discussions with White House staff and members of Congress, highlighting SME's impact on workforce development.



FANUC Grand Opening

On July 10, 2024, the SME Education Foundation team had the privilege of attending the grand opening of FANUC America's impressive new West Campus robotics and automation hub in Auburn Hills, MI. The event kicked off with inspiring presentations by FANUC America's President and CEO Mike Cicco, and Dr. Y. Inaba, FANUC's Chairman. In a captivating moment, two CRX Cobots flanking the stage lifted and held the ribbon for the official ribbon cutting. This remarkable achievement is bold investment in the future of the industrial automation industry.



SME Education Foundation In the News

WZMQ-TV 19 CBS

Uelta Schoolcraft ISD receives award from SME PRIME [Read more →](#)

Macomb Daily

Lakeview Schools now part of SME PRIME engineering program [Read more →](#)

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Students Gather in Atlanta to compete in trade skills competition [Read more →](#)

Quality Magazine

SME Announces Partnership with BlueForge Alliance to Build and Strengthen the Manufacturing Workforce [Read more →](#)

MLIVE

3-D printer, more coming to Lincoln High School through new manufacturing program [Read more →](#)

Digital Engineering 247

Winners of 2024 SkillsUSA Additive Manufacturing Competition Announced [Read more →](#)

MLIVE

College or trade? How one teenage mechanic found middle ground [Read more →](#)



SME Education Foundation 2023 Annual Report

2023 was a record year for the SME Education Foundation as Student Summits, SME PRIME and the Scholarship program delivered impressive results. [Read the full report →](#)

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