

President's Message:

FPEF: Making the Case for Fluid Power Education

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Over its history, the Foundation had the very good fortune to have passionate Board members guiding the organization. Along with those countless, dedicated volunteers, the Foundation continues to have enthusiastic benefactors, expecting to see continuous improvement in fluid power curricula, contact, and consistency from one Board to the next.

I have the distinct honor of leading this new Board into 2009. Our new Board has many fresh faces, new ideas, and an overwhelming desire to move the FPEF into the future. We expect to accomplish initiatives already underway, to develop a long term educational plan, and to firm up our relationships with other leading fluid power organizations in this industry.

Manufacturing in the United States is in turmoil; fluid power component manufacturers are consolidating, along with fluid power distribution. Industry is seeking talented, educated, and passionate employees. We foresee increasing demand for multi-discipline technicians involved with the design, build, and maintenance of automation. Technical Fluid Power Education will offer new students, educators, and skilled workers continuing, and future, benefits.

Going "GREEN" is all the "buzz" today! Emphasis on energy conservation, reducing green house gases, and using fluid power more efficiently, will gather more support. Major cities in the United States are moving at "warp speed" to be recognized as Green Cities. You should expect to see expansion in Green Buildings,

and Green initiatives from the manufacturing sector, because it is patriotic, and makes "cents"!

Looking beyond the demand side of Fluid Power, where fluid power is used to make, assemble, and package consumer products, there is a developing move to evaluate the "overhead costs" of fluid power, the costs to generate fluid power on the "supply side" for automated equipment. Virtually, every dollar of overhead costs falls to the bottom line, offering financial executives, not the people in the plants, another place to improve profits. Indeed, the bottom line in manufacturing can be improved by analyzing both the supply and the demand sides of fluid power. The U. S. Department of Energy has many programs for energy reduction, using compressors, pumps, etc. Regional power companies are offering incentives to reduce energy costs. Of course, these new opportunities will require additional education initiatives. It will be necessary to make the public sector aware of these initiatives and opportunities.

With the help of our benefactors, contributors, volunteers, and staff, the FPEF will continue to make a case for more fluid power education, especially with the changes we are witnessing today. Serious Fluid Power Education can make a substantial contribution toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil, reducing energy consumption, and reducing the carbon footprint of our industries.

We need your help to continue this work and to identify new fluid power training opportunities. New training opportunities and initiatives will require additional funding. In this economy, we recognize the difficulty to help others, to contribute, donate, and volunteer. Please don't give up on our future scientists, specialists, and technicians that will be educated to apply fluid power. Pitch in to help set the agenda and the future of the Fluid Power Educational Foundation. We ask for your support, your contributions, and your suggestions to provide new direction for the FPEF.