Mears Group-NACE Foundation Scholarship Established for the University of Akron Corrosion and Reliability Engineering Program

Mears Group, Inc., through its partnership with NACE Foundation, is offering $15,000 in annual scholarships to assist students who wish to earn the nation’s first Bachelor of Science degree in corrosion engineering through a program which began fall 2010 at The University of Akron. The scholarship is being funded through an annual donation to NACE Foundation from Mears, a Quanta Services company. Mears is a leader in corrosion control engineering and integrity management for pipelines, electric power and others. The first scholarships are awarded for the university’s 2011/2012 academic year.

“I want to personally thank Mears for their proactive role in educating the next generation of corrosion engineers. They have stepped to the plate and funded these scholarships through the NACE Foundation in response to a great national need” said Neil G. Thompson, Ph.D., President of the NACE International Foundation. “Work force development for better corrosion control and management is a primary goal of the Foundation, and commitments like this by Mears enable us to make great progress.”

Kevin C. Garrity, Vice President of Mears Group, Inc. and NACE International President-elect for 2012 is to present the first Mears scholarship to a UAkron student at NACE Foundation’s 2011 scholarship awards ceremony held during NACE International CORROSION 2011 Conference and Expo. “Our resources at Mears, both people and equipment, are among the most extensive in the industry. With a highly skilled, experienced and mobile workforce of more than 16,000 Quanta and Mears employees, it is essential that we continue to renew and advance our corrosion expertise for improved safety and integrity of the nation’s energy infrastructure” said Garrity. “We are excited to partner with NACE to support the corrosion engineering program at The University of Akron, and we look forward the day that their students enter the work force.”

Joe H. Payer directs the research portion of the Corrosion and Reliability Engineering program at The University of Akron. With initial funding from the U.S. Department of Defense and Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight, the Corrosion and Reliability Engineering program provides education, research and service to advance corrosion science and technology for increased safety, reliability and reduced costs of corrosion.

“Our newly established corrosion degree program is in response to strong demand from industry, the U.S. Department of Defense and others. It comes at an opportune time to address a crucial need for work force development and improved treatment of corrosion in Performance Assessment and Systems Health Monitoring,” said Payer who is also a Fellow and past president of NACE International. “We are extremely grateful that Mears and NACE Foundation have partnered to support students in our program with this scholarship; it shows that both organizations are sincerely dedicated to the advancement of the corrosion industry and the development of the next generation of corrosion leaders.”

For more information or to apply for the Mears-NACE Foundation Scholarship, please visit: http://www.uakron.edu/uakroncorrosion/Students/scholarships/index.dot.