

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

The Louisiana Engineering Foundation was incorporated in 1978 by a group of Louisiana professional engineers, members of the Louisiana Engineering Society and other professional engineering groups. Its purpose was, and continues to be, the promotion of activities to support and strengthen the profession of engineering. The original officers were Vincent A. Forte, P.E., President; A.J. Szabo, P.E., Vice President; Guy W. Miller, P.E., Secretary; James L. Meyer, P.E., Treasurer; Mr. R. Carlton "Doc" Spears was appointed Executive Secretary.

The stated objectives of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation are to promote charitable, educational, and scientific objectives. More specifically, its goals are:

- 1) To grant scholarships and fellowships to students in support of engineering
- 2) To provide guidance and information to high school and college students who are interested in engineering careers
- 3) To provide opportunities in the form of seminars, workshops, and classes for practicing engineers to continue their education development
- 4) To disseminate engineering information beneficial to the interested public and to establish and maintain an Engineering Center.

The last goal was initially accomplished by purchasing a building and surrounding grounds at 1213 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Leo M. Odom, loans, and contributions from practicing engineers and corporations. The building housed the Louisiana Engineering Society and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana.

In 1996, the original building and location were found to be no longer adequate to fulfill the objectives of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation. The LEF Board of Directors made the decision to rent office space at One Calais Avenue in Baton Rouge until a new engineering center could be built. The building housed the Louisiana Engineering Society, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, the Louisiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, and the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists.

The current Louisiana Engineering Center on Brookline Avenue was constructed in 1998-1999 with more than 350 donations totaling more than \$6,000,000 from engineers, engineering firms, organizations, and businesses dependent upon engineering. The donors are honored by having their names displayed on plaques in the lobby of the building where all members of the engineering profession and visitors may see who supported the project.

The Foundation supports MATHCOUNTS, the program to encourage the knowledge of mathematics among junior high school students; gives Graduate School Fellowships to graduate students who express an intention of teaching at the college level, annually confers honors on an engineering faculty member selected by his peers in each of the accredited engineering schools in Louisiana and gives over 25 scholarships to undergraduate engineering students throughout Louisiana. Since 1982, LEF has presented numerous Fellowships to graduate students at Tulane University, Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. In the annual Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award Program, various engineering faculty members from Louisiana State University,

Tulane University, University of New Orleans, McNeese State University, Louisiana Tech University, Southern University, and the University of Louisiana Lafayette have been recognized and each honored with a plaque of recognition.

The Louisiana Engineering Foundation is supported in its endeavors by contributions of dues-paying members of the Louisiana Engineering Society and by donations in support of engineering education. Persons, companies, or foundations should communicate with the Executive Director at

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If you practice engineering, employ engineers in your business, or use the benefits of engineering in your industry, the Directors invite you to consider donating funds, securities, or property to the Louisiana Engineering Foundation.

MEMORIALS– Special contributions may be made to the Foundation in memory of a deceased friend, relative, or associate. The funds received are used to carry out the goals of LEF. A memorial plaque is hanging in the foundation headquarters building. The name of the deceased and his/her date of death is engraved on the plaque.