



DFI EDUCATIONAL TRUST

For Immediate Release

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DFI Educational Trust Receives One Million Dollar Pledge

The DFI Educational Trust is celebrating a very successful year. The original goal of the Trust was to raise \$500,000 in five years but a pledge issued in September 2007 to DFI Headquarters suddenly provided the opportunity for the Trust to realize that goal early, and then some! Headquarters received a call from an attorney stating that his client was planning on making a substantial contribution to the Trust. That client turned out to be Charles J. Berkel, the founder of Berkel & Company Contractors. Berkel made his pledge public at the DFI annual meeting in Colorado Springs where he also received the DFI Distinguished Service Award. Berkel noted in his remarks after receiving the award that his decision to donate \$1 Million to the Trust came long before being notified of his receiving the award. This pledge brings the Trust's total funds to over \$1,150,000, more than doubling the five year goal in less than two years.

Currently, the Trust implements student outreach programs which include high school career awareness, paper competitions, and funding of various student projects. Outreach efforts of the Trust include a planned field trip in downtown New York City and a financial contribution to Chi Epsilon for the field trip bus at the Pacific Conference held at the University of California, Berkeley, where Trust Chair Richard Short spoke in November to 250 engineering students. The Trust is also very involved in the ACE Mentor Program, a program designed to raise student awareness of all levels on the design and building construction professions, including the trades. DFI's Educational Trust is proud to have contributed \$9,000 in 2007 to the ACE scholarship program. Three awards of \$3,000 each were made to their program participants; one in San Francisco, one in New York and one in Tennessee.



ACE Mentor Scholarship Recipient

With the rapidly growing fund, a more comprehensive scholarship program is now in development. The Trust Board is considering an integrated internship/scholarship program for civil engineering students with an interest in the deep foundations field. Awards will be made to undergraduate students participating in the program and will be administered by select universities with strong civil and geotechnical programs. These university partners will be asked to provide candidates for the scholarships based on financial need, minimum GPA, and interest in a geo-foundation field. Although the Trust has had a successful year, the goal of providing these scholarships as planned will take at least two years to realize. It is estimated that the Trust will be able to award about \$50,000 in scholarships in the academic year beginning in September 2009 with smaller awards to be made in 2008.



2007 2nd Annual Pittsburgh Golf Outing

history and future of the Panama Canal. A special guest speaker, Dr. Charlie Thornton, also made a presentation about the ACE Mentor Program. These activities raised a total of \$51,500 in 2007.

The Trust thanks all supporters who have contributed to the fund since its inception in 2006.

Other Trust news is also heartening, even if not as spectacular as the Berkel generosity. The Trust's fundraising program includes golf events, an annual gala dinner in New York City, the Art for the Office program, and donations and pledges. Golf events were held at the Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pa., Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, Cal., and at the Broadmoor Mountain Course in Colorado Springs during the annual conference. "Art for the Office" debuted at the Colorado Springs meeting and was well received by the members. The Gala Dinner in New York City featured Professor Mike Duncan with his presentation about the



2007 2nd Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner - NYC