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Contact: Helena Seelinger
E-mail: nace.foundation@nace.org

NACE Foundation Launches Campaign to Build World-Class Corrosion Training Facility

HOUSTON, TX (August 1, 2007) – The NACE Foundation has launched a Capital Campaign to establish the first world-class facility for professional workforce training in the corrosion industry. The Training Center will feature hands-on equipment and outdoor training fields with industrial structures that simulate real-world corrosive environments. The Center will be a resource for teachers and professors of corrosion programs, and for existing and future training courses by NACE International, a separate organization whose mission is to protect people, assets, and the environment from the effects of corrosion.

“Overall, the effort will equip tomorrow’s workforce with exposure to real-world scenarios they might not otherwise experience in the field,” said Tony Keane, Executive Director of NACE International. “Such exposure will better enable the workforce to address corrosion-control issues before they arise and develop into environmental or financial catastrophes.”

A relevant issue. It’s a fact – high school students today are not as engaged with science and technology as in previous generations. Collegiate engineering programs rarely provide substantial instruction on corrosion prevention, and the corrosion control workforce often requires more than on-the-job-training in order to be effective.

The NACE Foundation’s focus on corrosion education has never been more relevant than it is today. A recent federally-funded study revealed that the total annual estimated direct cost of corrosion in the U.S. is approximately 3.1% of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and reducing the cost of corrosion has become the focus of a legislative bill pending in the U.S. Congress.1

A compelling challenge. “We’re looking for champions—the elite of this global industry who want to become a part of history by contributing to this groundbreaking goal,” said NACE Foundation President Elaine Bowman.

With today’s launch of the NACE Foundation Capital Campaign, NACE International has announced a matching funds campaign, agreeing to match the amount raised by the NACE Foundation dollar-for-dollar up to $1.2 million.

“Companies facing corrosion-related challenges understand the value of our focus on education, and we are confident that many corporate sponsors and individuals will support this campaign,” adds Bowman.

The time is now. Building a world-class educational facility is the first definite stride in encouraging, supporting, and implementing optimal corrosion control practices via a well-educated workforce. The new Center will spur additional training and lead other groups to do the same with the help and encouragement of NACE International’s 17,000 members, 307 corporate members, and 92 sections.

Interested individuals and corporations can contact the NACE Foundation directly via phone at +1 281-228-6205, or via e-mail at nace.foundation@nace.org.

NACE International is a professional technical association dedicated to promoting public safety, protecting the environment, and reducing the economic impact of corrosion. Established in 1943, NACE International has more than 17,000 members worldwide and offers technical training and certification programs, sponsors conferences, and produces industry standards, reports, publications, and software. More information about NACE International can be found at www.nace.org.

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