



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer DeWitt, Lowcountry Manufacturers Council
Phone: (843) 574-6300
Email: jdewitt@lmcs.org

Scholarships Established to Enhance Current and Future Workforce for Manufacturers

Charleston, SC - March 16, 2009 – Two new scholarships are available to Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester county students interested in pursuing careers in manufacturing, engineering and science. Established by the Lowcountry Manufacturers Council (LMC), the \$1,500 scholarships are offered in partnership with Trident Technical College and the S.C. International Trade Conference (SCITC).

"Manufacturers have a critical need for young people to explore and enter the manufacturing career field," explained LMC chairman Hank Bennett of Robert Bosch LLC. "We want to help Lowcountry manufacturers by investing in ambitious students who will be a part of the sector's long-term success."

"These scholarships are also an example of how the LMC is committed to the community and specifically to workforce development," Bennett added.

The "Lowcountry Manufacturers Council Scholarship Fund" assists incoming or current Trident Technical College students enrolled in the General Technology associate degree career path programs and various certificate programs in Industrial Technology. Areas of eligible study include Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Mechanics, Industrial Electricians and Welding. According to the LMC leadership, these programs are where there is the greatest need for qualified candidates. The award of up to \$1,500 (\$750 for fall semester/\$750 for spring semester) can be used for tuition, books, required course materials and equipment.

According to the LMC leadership, the \$1,500 "Scholarship in Manufacturing, Engineering & Science" was established in partnership with S.C. International Trade Conference due to the increasing role of trade and manufacturing in a global economy. Eligible applicants include Tri-County high school seniors planning to attend an accredited South Carolina college or university to study manufacturing, engineering or science. The award will be presented in late May at the annual conference which brings together government and business leaders to address key global trade issues

"The availability of these scholarships will be a way to create interest in manufacturing careers," commented Priscilla Roper, Human Resources Director for Charleston Marine Containers, Inc. and chair of the LMC Workforce Development Committee. "Our goal is to give students a chance to obtain training or advance their education, and hopefully, they will ultimately choose to stay in the Lowcountry."

According to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), an estimated 80 percent of manufacturers reported a "moderate to serious" shortage of qualified job applicants, and despite the current economic downturn, there will be a continued need for a skilled workforce due to global competition and the retirement of Baby Boomers. The NAM also reports that many people have an outdated image of manufacturing, not realizing that it has changed into a high-tech, advanced industry requiring skilled and talented people.

Details and application information for the scholarships and applications can be found online at:
Trident Technical College – http://www.tridenttech.org/803_17485.htm
SCITC - http://www.scsipa.com/SCITC/documents/SCITC_2009_LMC_Final.pdf

The Lowcountry Manufacturers Council (LMC) is a regional division of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance (SCMA). The mission of the Lowcountry Manufacturers Council is to enhance the competitiveness, promote development and impact the manufacturing sector of the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Learn more online at www.lmcs.org or www.myscma.com.

###