

Tennessee Engineering Foundation

Educational opportunities to ensure a bright future in engineering

History of the Tennessee Engineering Foundation

Representatives of Consulting Engineers of Tennessee (CET), the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), and the Joint Engineering Advisory Group (JEAG) incorporated the Tennessee Engineering Foundation (TEF) in 1986. The corporation was formed for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. It is a 501(c)(3) (nonprofit charity) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

The original trustees were Gary Sproles, Dan Barge, Jr., Ronald Cox, John Douglas, Bruce Burr, Wesley Grace, Don Mauldin, B.S. Merrille, and Mary D. Shahan, Executive Director for TSPE and CET.

The Scholarship and MATHCOUNTS programs, as well as the Nashville Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships, are under the auspices of the TEF. Lester Smith and Smith Seckman Reid established the Edward Bryan Scholarship with a \$20,000 donation to honor the former Vanderbilt engineering professor. TEF has awarded ten scholarships for \$2,000, and two scholarships for \$1,000 from the original donation and additional contributions made to the scholarship account. The Edward Bryan Scholarship fund was depleted in 2000.

Dan Barge, Jr., did the original fundraising for the TEF and he collected over \$1000 during the first year. Each year, some TSPE members designate money for the TEF or its Scholarship fund through a “dues check off.” CET originally had a line item expense in their budget for \$500 to help fund MATHCOUNTS.

There are currently six Trustees, who are named by the Boards of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (formerly CET) to 3-year terms (staggered), representing East, Middle, and West Tennessee. A list of current Trustees is on the back.