

editor's note



THE MAIN FUND-RAISER FOR MY SON JOSHUA'S BOY SCOUT TROOP is an annual pancake breakfast.

It's actually a pretty good deal—\$5 for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausages, coffee and orange juice. (The food is donated and the workers are all volunteers; and yes, I'll spend three hours flipping flapjacks). On a recent cold and rainy Saturday, my son and another Scout set up a table at the local farmer's market to sell tickets. Despite the unpleasant weather, large numbers of people would stop and patiently listen to the corny sales pitch, and many would buy tickets.

But what most impressed me were those who knew they weren't going to come to the breakfast yet still made a donation. They didn't give a lot of money (usually a couple of dollars), but just the act of giving back to a community is important.

David Ratterman, AISC's longtime legal counsel, has a long history of giving back to the community. One of his big interests is working with high school students and helping them prepare for the future. So it wasn't surprising to anyone (except maybe David) when the AISC Education Foundation announced a new scholarship program, named in his honor, that awards a \$5,000 scholarship to two students entering their freshman or sophomore year of college and that are family members of employees of AISC-member steel fabricators.

In its inaugural year, the program received 100 entries—with many of them containing amazing stories such as this one: "Six of my relatives have worked for a steel fabricator: my grandpa, my dad, my two uncles and my two brothers. Growing up I have heard about a lot of places they have worked or built. My grandpa worked on the original World Trade

Center. He told me the raindrops on the 84th floor are as big as your thumb. My dad's company was honored to help rebuild the Trade Centers. My dad and brothers, along with my grandpa, signed the first beam Dad's company fabricated for the new World Trade Center. The beam was then sent to New York and is now in the World Trade Center. It means a lot to me to be related to someone who works for an AISC-member company."

Of course, the Ratterman Scholarships are not the only ones given by the AISC Education Foundation. There are another 11 \$5,000 scholarships (ranging from the Fred R. Havens Fund to the W&W/AFCO Steel Fund to generally funded scholarships) plus a large number of lower-funded scholarships. All told, 32 scholarships were awarded for the 2012-2013 academic year. Funding for these scholarships comes from a combination of sources including individual donations as well as AISC member payments. (The 2012-2013 winners are listed in last month's news section.)

While the AISC Education Foundation doesn't solicit contributions directly, they do accept them. If you're interested in helping to develop the future, call AISC's president, Roger Ferch, at 312.670.5401 or simply mail your donation to the AISC Education Foundation at One East Wacker Dr., Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601.

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