



The Foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, Intl.

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## A Letter from FMA's CEO

We have an emergency, and I hope you can help.

As you know, Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs (NBT) has provided over \$850,000 in funding for scholarships and manufacturing camps since 2004. This year, something extraordinary has happened. We have received over 400 applications for aid. In a typical year, we receive an average of 50 applications. **This demand far outstrips our funding capability, and I hope that you might consider making a donation to support these worthy students.**

NBT provides scholarships of up to \$2,500 to students attending a community college or trade school to learn skills necessary for a career in manufacturing. We help them learn about fabricating, welding, CAD, CNC programming, lasers, and robotics. With the current economic downturn, we have seen a skyrocketing demand for education as our workforce retools and retrains.

The profile of applicants for NBT scholarships has changed too, as the economy has moved through the recession. Formerly our applicants were all new high school grads just starting their career training. Today, we still see that kind of applicant, of course, but we also see returning vets trying to establish a permanent career and mid-life career changers preparing to build a whole new set of skills. They have the drive and intellect to redefine our workforce. All they need is money to go to school. Please consider making a [gift](#) that will help these students and help secure the future of our industry.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Shankel  
President & CEO, FMA and Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs

