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Press Release

HARTFORD, Conn. August 18, 2008 -- The Wire Reinforcement Institute (WRI) Education Foundation, has announced \$21,000 in scholarships awarded to five students pursuing engineering studies. This is the fourth year the scholarship opportunity has been extended to undergraduate and graduate civil and structural engineering students at accredited colleges and universities.

Jonathan E. Emenheiser, Blacksburg, VA, a Virginia Tech junior, received a \$5,000 scholarship. Catherine R. Joseph, Lewiston, ME, entering Duke University Pratt School of Engineering; Elias A. Rivera, Clermont, FL, set to graduate from the University of Florida in 2009; Chelsea M. Knox, Gulf Breeze, FL, entering the University of Florida; and Robert Peggar, Boyd, WI, entering University of Wisconsin at Platteville; all received \$4,000 scholarships.

"We're pleased to once again extend this scholarship opportunity to five exceptional students who are committed to structural and civil engineering studies," said WRI Chairman Mike McCall. "These scholarships are intended to encourage and advance the study of civil and structural engineering. We also want to raise awareness among all engineers about the applications and benefits of structural Welded Wire Reinforcement (WWR)."

Structural WWR is steel reinforcement used across the full range of concrete construction. Unlike competitive products, it is cold-worked, giving it higher yield strength, and is produced in preformed sheets that eliminate the time-consuming job-site layout and tying that is typical of the industry's predominant concrete reinforcement.

Scholarships are awarded by the WRI Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, formed for the specific purpose of funding and awarding these scholarships to qualified high school seniors, as well as current undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in structural and/or civil engineering at accredited four-year universities or colleges. Scholarships, ranging from \$2,500 up to \$10,000 are awarded for a specified single academic year and paid by the Foundation directly to the university or college designated by the recipient.

Interested candidates should obtain an application form after October 1 from the WRI website at: <http://www.wirereinforcementinstitute.org/>. The deadline is April 15 each year. Further questions may be addressed to the WRI at admin@wirereinforcementinstitute.org, or by calling (800) 552-4WRI (4974); Outside US, please call: 1-860-808-3000 x356.

About the Scholarship Winners

Jonathan E. Emenheiser, Blacksburg, Virginia, \$5,000

Emenheiser is entering his junior year at Virginia Tech, majoring in civil engineering. He intends to further his education by pursuing a Master of Science degree in civil engineering. Emenheiser served in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan and Iraq and still serves in the Virginia Army National Guard. Upon graduation from Virginia Tech he hopes to work for an engineering firm focusing on structural design.

Catherine R. Joseph, Lewiston, ME, \$4,000

Joseph graduated from St. Dominic Regional High School and is entering Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering. Her major is civil engineering with a focus on the structural component, and she is also seeking certification in architectural engineering/design.

Elias A. Rivera, Clermont, FL, \$4,000

Rivera, a civil engineering student at the University of Florida, plans to graduate in December of 2009, but intends to continue on at the University pursuing a graduate degree in civil engineering. His degree has an emphasis on the structural component. He is in the top 5% of his class and ultimately wants to work for a structural engineering firm.

Chelsea M. Knox, Gulf Breeze, FL, \$4,000

Knox is a graduate of Gulf Breeze High School and is entering the University of Florida majoring in civil engineering. She also wants to pursue a master's degree either in architecture or civil engineering.

Robert Pegg, Boyd, WI, \$4,000

Pegg graduated at the top of his class from Stanley-Boyd High School. He will be attending University of Wisconsin at Platteville majoring in civil engineering.

About the Wire Reinforcement Institute(WRI)

Headquartered in Hartford, CT, WRI is the world's leading association of manufacturers, allied industries and professionals engaged in the production and application of structural welded wire reinforcement (WWR) and related products for concrete reinforcement. The Institute advances the concrete industry by providing technical, outreach and promotional programs and materials on the applications and benefits of structural WWR. WRI works closely with design firms, universities, owners, contractors and government agencies, to ensure adherence to the most accurate, up-to-date codes, standards, specifications and regulatory requirements. Through the WRI Education Foundation, the Institute funds an annual scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate civil and structural engineering students at accredited engineering universities. For more information on WRI or WWR, please visit www.wirereinforcementinstitute.org or call 800-552-4WRI [4974]. Outside the U.S., please call 1-860-808-3000, X356.