



## **History of the Education Foundation and Endowed Professorship**

(Updated August 2009)

In the early 1980's, the Adhesive and Sealant Council Board of Directors identified a number of broad industry needs that might best be addressed through an effective partnership between industry and the academic community: support research at selected universities which has wide industry appeal and contributes to the industry's technology base; promote faculty and student awareness of employment opportunities in the industry; foster the development of graduate and undergraduate courses on adhesive/sealant technology which are responsive to the needs of industry; and encourage continuing education of industry personnel through short courses, seminars, "hands on" equipment training, etc. A committee of industry leaders was formed to examine possible avenues the Council might take in spearheading such an effort. This committee was later named the Education Foundation Committee.

As a first step, ASC's Education Foundation Committee implemented a modestly-funded three year "Pilot" Education Program. During which time the Council would: a) fund research fellowships and/or provide outright grants at several regional located universities; b) organize an annual summer employment program and c) establish effective working relationships between industry personnel and university faculty.

Following an extensive review of forty colleges and universities located throughout the United States, four institutions were selected during 1984-85 to participate in the program: The University of Akron – Institute of Polymer Science, The University of Connecticut – Institute of Materials Science, The University of Southern California – Department of Chemical Engineering, and The Virginia Polytechnic Institute – Center for Adhesion Science.

Funding was made possible through the generous, voluntary support of 103 participating ASC member companies. After the early success of the Pilot Education Program, the ASC Board of Directors instructed staff to take the necessary steps to formalize an education foundation and on August 21, 1986, the ASC Education Foundation was incorporated.

Why Virginia Tech? The Education Foundation Technical Advisory Committee evaluated the pilot program universities based on six criteria: use of ASC funds, quality

of students attracted to the university, quality of faculty, quality and availability of facilities and equipment and programs and seminars for the industry and found they were essentially equal. The unanimous recommendation of Virginia Tech as the site for ASC's Center for Adhesion and Sealant Science was based on a final criteria: the commitment of the university. Virginia Tech surpassed the other universities in their dedication to and active involvement in working with the Council, the conveyance by both faculty and school officials of enthusiasm for the ASC education program.. On April 1, 1987, the ASC Board approved the committee recommendation and made Virginia Tech the recipient of future Education Foundation funding.

In April 1989, the Education Foundation set up \$150,000 for an Endowed Professor Fund at Virginia Tech to recognize the importance of maintaining an industry presence on campus. The first recipient was Dr. Thomas Ward, who served as Endowed Professor until the end of 2006, at which point he retired from the University. Dr. David Dillard was selected to succeed Dr. Ward and currently serves as Endowed Professor.