Robert F. Foster Skilled Trades Scholarship
2026

Robert F. Foster was deeply involved in the manufacturing industry beginning his journey in tool and die at the age of 18. It quickly became both his career and his passion, leading him to build two successful businesses within the industry. Robert joined TMA with his company, Laser Technologies in the early 1980s. He was a strong advocate for apprenticeship programs, particularly those aimed at enhancing the skills of young adults who were passionate about the industry. In his memory, Robert's family has established an annual scholarship fund to carry on his legacy and support the values he held dear.

TMA thanks the Foster family and Laser Technologies for their support in sponsoring a full 3-year track within the TMA Related Theory Apprenticeship Program annually. The Robert F. Foster Skilled Trades Scholarship is designed to promote and recruit promising individuals within the manufacturing sector awarding them a total of $9,750 across the 3-year span of their training.

TMA requires applications from company representatives to include the following:

- ☑ Recommendation or letter of support detailing:
  - Students' background and hard/soft skills
  - How this employee has shown dedication within the manufacturing field
  - How this scholarship will improve and support your company in skillset and financials
- ☑ Statement of Commitment from potential apprentice
  - Why did you choose this industry?
  - Why are you committed to continuing your education in this field?
  - What are you most looking forward to?
- ☑ Statement of Commitment from employer agreeing to work with/act as a mentor for the potential apprentice along with TMA staff to ensure success within the program
- ☑ Written contract between student and employer detailing the parameters of the expectations of longevity and loyalty from student to their company by sending them through TMA's Related Theory Apprenticeship Program (Not required, but recommended with employer's best interest in mind)
- ☑ Registered for the RTAT Entrance Exam – LINK HERE
- ☑ Permission for TMA to share company and student story/pictures for marketing purposes

Name		Date
Address		
City	State/ZIP	
Phone	E-Mail	
Current Employer		

Job Description or Title

Application

1. Recommendation or letter of support detailing:
    - Students' background and hard/soft skills
    - How this employee has shown dedication within the manufacturing field
    - How this scholarship will improve and support your company in skillset and financials

2. Statement of Commitment from potential apprentice
    - Why did you choose this industry?
    - Why are you committed to continuing your education in this field?
    - What are you most looking forward to?

3. Statement of Commitment from employer agreeing to work with/act as a mentor for the potential apprentice along with TMA staff to ensure success within the program

4. Written contract between student and employer detailing the parameters of the expectations of longevity and loyalty from student to their company by sending them through TMA's Related Theory Apprenticeship Program
    - (Not required, but recommended with employer's best interest in mind)

5. Registered for the RTAT Entrance Exam – LINK TO REGISTER | LINK TO BOOK

    ☐ Check box if registered

6. Permission for TMA to share company and student story/pictures for marketing purposes

    ☐ Check box if TMA has media permission

If you have any questions, please call Justine Ewald at (847) 480-3496

Please email scholarship requests to jewald@tmaillinois.org

Or mail them to:

The Technology & Manufacturing Association
1651 Wilkening Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173

The TMA Education Foundation's mission is to sustain, improve, and expand manufacturing technology education and encourage the pursuit of careers in the industry.