Commitment by the Corporate Sponsor

To participate in the Corporate Scholars Program, the Corporate Sponsor must be committed:
1. To fund a $2,500 per year scholarship for a four-year period ($10,000 in total);
2. To provide summer employment following the sophomore year; and
3. To provide information to prospective scholars, e.g., general information on the company, description of work typically performed by new summer interns, location of work, etc.

The commitment will be made for each of the scholars that the corporation chooses to sponsor. Funds should be received by the University by July 1st of each year. Corporations interested in participating in this program should make a commitment by December 1 to have a freshman student starting the following fall semester.

The sponsor is also encouraged to provide additional periods of employment for their Corporate Scholar to the extent that they are mutually beneficial and agreeable to both the sponsor and the scholar.

Benefits to the Corporate Sponsor

1. To gain an advantage in recruiting top engineering graduates through a summer employment program that provides insight into the students and their capabilities and exposes them to your corporation;
2. To build contacts and relationships with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Alabama which may lead to advantages in recruiting other engineering students in addition to the sponsored scholar; and
3. To sustain a high-quality workforce and engineering applicant pool for future recruiting by the corporation.

Commitment by the Student Participant

Participants in the Corporate Scholars Program will be selected by the faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The initial application to the program will be through the regular University of Alabama scholarship application process. No additional written information other than a complete application is needed. Students being considered for the program will also be interviewed on the University of Alabama campus.

Corporate Scholars will receive $1,250 deposited into their university accounts each fall and spring semester for a four-year period provided that they:
1. Maintain a 3.0 GPA; and
2. Continue to major in Mechanical Engineering at The University of Alabama.

Receipt of the scholarship for their junior and senior years requires that they also successfully complete a period of summer employment following their sophomore year. Scholars are encouraged to discuss additional periods of employment with their Corporate Sponsor to the extent that such employment is mutually beneficial and agreeable to both the sponsor and the scholar.

Benefits to the Corporate Scholar

1. Financial assistance throughout their undergraduate program;
2. Opportunity to gain professional experience before graduation; and
3. Opportunity to develop a relationship with a corporation which extends beyond that of a traditional summer internship.
Commitment of the Department of Mechanical Engineering

With the assistance of Engineering Student Services and other University offices, the Department of Mechanical Engineering is committed:
1. To provide the best applicants in Mechanical Engineering or in Engineering without a discipline-specification (undesignated engineering majors) as potential student participants;
2. To select (with assistance/guidelines from sponsors) the Corporate Scholars;
3. To verify that scholarship money is transferred to student accounts in a timely fashion; and
4. To verify continued eligibility of the Corporate Scholars.

In addition the Department of Mechanical Engineering is always willing to answer any questions from students or corporations regarding its curriculum and degree requirements.

Benefits to the Department of Mechanical Engineering
1. Financial assistance in recruiting top students to its undergraduate program; and
2. Opportunity to familiarize top corporations with the qualities of its graduates.

Additional Information on the Corporate Scholar Replacement Process
Each year there are a number of promising high school seniors who enter the University of Alabama and fail to maintain the level of academic achievement which they set during their high school years. In addition there are a number of students who decide that engineering is not the appropriate career choice for them and change their major despite excelling academically. Most of these changes occur during the freshman year. It is expected that there will be Corporate Scholars who fail to maintain the eligibility requirements, particularly during the freshman year. In this case, the original scholars will be replaced by other mechanical engineering students who are excelling in academic and professional development.

The final criteria for maintaining the scholarship, completion of a successful internship following the sophomore year, will be monitored by both the sponsor and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Any difficulties with the internship should be well-documented.

Questions regarding the Corporate Scholars Program can be addressed to

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Corporate Scholars Program

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