



## **To Scholarship Applicants (by Sharon Haverstock)**

I love the forging industry and the people in it. Professional, smart, hard-working, honest and caring people are the norm throughout. The products that come from this industry literally keep the world running. They are used in applications as diverse as submarines beneath the sea and spacecraft such as the rover “Curiosity” on the surface of Mars. What’s not to get excited about?

Rising to executive and leadership positions as a woman in a very male-dominated field was exciting and fulfilling, but wasn’t always easy. I was fortunate to have some wonderful mentors - at Scot Forge, within the Forging Industry Association and its membership, and throughout the entire supply chain. They recognized my potential and helped me reach it by proactively providing guidance, training and specific opportunities for advancement. In other words, when looking for the next generation of leaders, they didn’t look past me or wait for me to ask for the role. They consciously assisted me and made it happen. I’d like to have other women be given that opportunity and experience that fulfillment.

I also wanted to honor and repay the people and industry that provided such personal satisfaction in my career. What better way than to offer a pathway potential starting path into the forging industry to young women a group that would bring diverse perspectives, as well as additional capabilities talent and leadership. It would be a win-win for the student and the industry companies.

The bottom line is I passionately would like to see more women take advantage of the opportunity to experience what I did – a fun and rewarding career with leadership roles in an exciting industry. I believe “paying it forward” by establishing this women’s scholarship can help make that happen.