PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundation Donates $7,500 to Construction Industry Education Foundation at AWCI's Industry Leaders Conference 2026

Falls Church, VA—The Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry (FWCI) is proud to announce a $7,500 donation to the Construction Industry Education Foundation (CIEF), a premier organization dedicated to empowering students to pursue rewarding careers in the built environment. The donation was officially presented to CIEF leadership during AWCI's Industry Leaders Conference, September 29-October 1, in Indian Wells, CA.

This contribution is specifically designated to support CIEF's workforce development programs, hands-on trades initiatives and educational pathways that equip the next generation of construction professionals with the tools and opportunities needed to excel in the industry.

"The Foundation is dedicated to the future of our industry, and that starts with supporting the institutions that train our future workforce," said Lee Zaretzky, president of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry and president of Ronsco, Inc. "We are honored to contribute to the Construction Industry Education Foundation and support their vital mission of preparing skilled professionals for rewarding careers in the built environment."
CIEF serves more than 17,000 students annually through its programs, offering hands-on learning, scholarships and career exploration initiatives designed to help address the skilled labor shortage.

"This support from the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry is a testament to the importance of the work being done to introduce young people to careers in the construction trades," said Jason Manion, Southwest regional manager, CIEF, who accepted the check at the conference. "Investments like this allow us to continue providing impactful programs, mentorship and resources to ensure students are fully prepared to enter and succeed in the modern workforce."

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About CIEF: CIEF is dedicated to empowering high school students and young adults to pursue rewarding careers in architecture, engineering, construction and the skilled trades. Through hands-on programs, Design Build Competitions®, mentorship initiatives and academic scholarships, CIEF introduces students to pathways in the built environment, fostering workforce development and creating opportunities for financial stability and professional growth.

About FWCI: FWCI was formed in 1977 to unite and expand the educational and research activities available to contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and the public in general. It is as an IRS designated non-profit 501(c)3 corporation and The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to grow, research to inform and philanthropy to CARE, in support of the wall and ceiling industry.

About AWCI: AWCI represents more than 2,500 member companies and organizations in the acoustics systems, ceiling systems, drywall systems, exterior insulation and finish systems, fireproofing, insulation, prefabrication/panelization and stucco industries. Our members are contractors, suppliers and manufacturers and those in allied trades. Our mission is connecting people in the wall and ceiling industry to innovate, grow and succeed.