

# Gene Haas Foundation Awards \$10,000 to South Dakota School of Mines & Technology



**2021/2022 South Dakota Mines' ME Department Haas Mentor Scholars (left to right): Zac Hogan, Taylor Muncie, Russell Phillips, and Kaleb Roth**

Rapid City, SD – Students at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology will have increased financial support as they pursue manufacturing education and training.

The Gene Haas Foundation has awarded South Dakota School of Mines & Technology \$10,000 in grants to support student scholarships and machining and manufacturing engineering program needs. The funds will be used for their Manufacturing Program, and it is the first grant received by the school for manufacturing scholarships by the foundation.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology offers training in machine and metal processes as part of their mechanical engineering program. The funds awarded through the foundation will be used for mechanical engineering student mentor scholarships. The mechanical engineering department student mentors are a critical component of the project-based learning effort. These mentors train other students and assist in project builds in the department's CNC machining program. The mentors are selected primarily for their leadership ability but must also possess a talent for fabrication. The team of mentors are elemental in the quality and volume of hands-on training offered to every mechanical engineering student. The funding provided by the Gene Haas Foundation will help to ensure the future CNC machining students receive quality instruction on state-of-the-art equipment.

Instructor Aaron Lalley states, "Productivity Inc. of Minneapolis has been a valuable supporter of the CNC machining program at South Dakota Mines. Our transition to Haas equipment has allowed the students to gain experience on industry standard equipment and better prepares them for their careers. This award from the Gene Haas Foundation will help us to continue to grow in the volume and quality of training and experience we can provide our students."

The Gene Haas Foundation's primary goal is to build skills in the manufacturing industry by providing scholarships for CNC machine technology students. A portion of the funds may also be used to support the school's participation in student competitions such as SkillsUSA that highlights their manufacturing programs.

The Gene Haas Foundation was established in 1999 by Haas Automation, Inc.'s Founder and CEO Gene Haas to support the needs of the local community through grants to such local charities as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Food Share, Rescue Mission, and others.

Seeing a growing need for skilled manufacturing employees industry-wide, the foundation expanded its mission to include support for manufacturing training programs throughout North America and beyond. By providing scholarship grants, sponsoring individual and team CNC competitions, and partnering with the very best CNC training programs in the world, the foundation helps expand the availability of high-quality manufacturing technology training worldwide.

The Gene Haas Foundation donates millions of dollars every year to manufacturing education and the community. In 2020, the Gene Haas Foundation provided more than \$17 million in grants, bringing the total since inception to more than \$100 million.