



The SEI Endowment Fund

Funding to Advance the Art, Science and Practice of Structural Engineering

By Ronald F. "Rawnn" Nelson, S. E.

We are all dedicated to advancing the profession of structural engineering, and to supporting career development of our members. SEI is striving to work in partnerships with national and local structural engineering organizations, universities and practicing engineers in an effort to address their educational, business and professional practice goals.

Gathering information on needs of the profession, and addressing them with information and education, is time-consuming and costly. To aid in overcoming the financial obstacle, the Structural Engineering Institute Endowment Fund (SEIEF) was established in 2003 to provide funding for education and training activities that strengthen the structural engineering profession. Through the Endowment Fund, SEI is able to expand efforts to enhance individual professional development, expand the appreciation of structural engineering contributions to the world, and promote student interest in structural engineering.

The SEIEF is funded through contributions from organizations or individuals. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable. Only the interest earned from monies contributed may be used to fund activities at the discretion of the SEIEF Board. Donations designated for a specific activity, and the interest earned by those donations, will be expended only in accordance with the wishes of the contributor.

SEI has made significant strides in improving programs for practicing engineers. Business and Professional and Local Activities Divisions have become active, in addition to traditional Technical and Codes and Standards functions. We have reached out to other organizations oriented toward practice, and brought to SEI and partnering organization members informed positions on major professional issues including Risk Management, Separate Licensing, Building Information Modeling and Continuing Education. We have enhanced the annual Structures Congress by adding sessions to address the needs of practicing engineers. We continue to issue new guidelines and standards, including a new edition of ASCE 7, that satisfy the highest responsibility of the profession to 'hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.'

These achievements come at a price. Staff support, committee travel and publications are costly. SEI has the potential to bring even greater benefits to you and our profession. With help, projects supported by the SEIEF will become a significant avenue for delivering value to SEI and partnering organization members.

The interest from each dollar donated to the SEIEF goes to work: funding webinars and scholarships, providing speakers for local events, sponsoring design project

presentations, forging pre-standard reports, and much more. Plus, contributions never stop working – donations today will support programs that generate opportunities for years to come.

The priorities and goals of the SEIEF are as follows:

| Priority | Project Area |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Individual Professional Development |
| 1 | Promote student interest in structural engineering |
| 2 | Accelerate guidelines and pre-standard reports |
| 3 | Advance practice-oriented university curriculum |
| 3 | Endowment Board designated uses |

Webinars, seminars and other continuing education activities will meet continuing education requirements for licensing. The free webinars that have been presented were well attended and attendees provided positive feedback. By funding the speakers to prepare and deliver the webinars and seminars, we hope to accelerate the process.

A second major use of SEIEF is to promote structural engineering among students at times when their commitment to structural engineering can be most effectively encouraged. These include graduating high school seniors, undergraduates and especially graduating seniors who are good candidates for Master's Degree programs. Recent joint outreach programs by SEI and NCSEA have focused on pre-high-school programs. Encouragements may include scholarships, travel grants, and academic awards. Use of funds to provide financial support will be contingent on the candidate's demonstration of commitment to a career in structural engineering, as evidenced by academic performance and work experience. In addition, a Visiting Professional program will be established whereby a Practicing Structural Engineer serves as guest lecturer to present example design project presentations for reinforced concrete, steel, masonry, or timber design to those respective design classes at Universities during the offerings of these classes.

Other uses of the SEIEF include the development of construction guidelines and other pre-standard reports so as to accelerate their evolution into usable industry standards. In addition, funds will be used to encourage more practice-oriented university curricula. The balance of the investment proceeds from the endowment fund will be directed annually by the SEIEF Board based on the principles outlined in this document. There will be no requirement to spend all investment proceeds from unrestricted gifts in any year.

SEIEF needs your support. Please consider giving in any amount. We are grateful for your support. The SEI Endowment Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are fully deductible for income tax purposes, and a receipt will be provided. A letter and pledge form can be obtained at <http://content.seiinstitute.org/inside/SEIEndowmentFund.html>.

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