

For Immediate Release
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Establish Tschappat Memorial Endowment at Ferris

BIG RAPIDS – The Henry Tschappat Memorial Leadership Award Endowment, a fund honoring Ferris State University’s first Plastics Engineering Technology program director, has been established at the University by his family, friends and industry colleagues.

When he joined Ferris in 1982, Tschappat was charged with designing a polymer program that has now developed into one of the University’s premier offerings. During his 11-year tenure, Plastics Engineering Technology grew five-fold and gained national and international recognition. For his efforts in leading and promoting the Ferris program, Tschappat was named International Society of Plastics Engineers Educator of the Year in 1992.

As program director and professor, he was committed to providing Plastics Engineering Technology students with opportunities to develop the skills and abilities of a polymer professional as they mastered the academic content of their program. Tschappat had a profound affect on the students he taught, both as a teacher and a mentor. Over two decades later, Ferris has Michigan’s only baccalaureate plastics engineering program and the largest and most respected undergraduate program in the nation.

Indicative of the respect for Tschappat throughout the polymer industry, Wayne Hertlein of Collins & Aikman helped in establishing the endowment by donating his honorarium received for his recognition as the 2004 Mold Designer of the Year from the Society of Plastics Engineers’ Moldmaking and Mold Design Division.

The Tschappat Memorial Leadership Award recognizes Tschappat’s contributions to his students and the importance of professionalism and scholarship in the development of future leaders in the plastics industry. Candidates for the award must be active participants in either the student chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers or the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and must have been chosen to present at a polymer industry conference.

Further information or gift forms for the Tschappat Memorial Leadership Award Endowment Fund are available by contacting Debra Jacks, director of planned giving, at 591-3817 or jacksd@ferris.edu.