



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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NFPA's Board of Directors provides strategic leadership and governance to support the association's mission and long-term growth.

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Message from the President/CEO

Each year's annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made across the fluid power industry and the collective efforts driving our association forward.

Throughout the year, NFPA continued expanding workforce development initiatives, strengthening member engagement opportunities, enhancing business intelligence resources, and promoting the value of modern fluid power technology. As industry needs continue evolving, NFPA remains committed to equipping members with the connections, insights, and resources needed to succeed.



ERIC LANKE

President / CEO
elanke@nfpa.com

Our actions remain anchored in our core objectives:

- **Effective Forum:** NFPA continues bringing together members, OEMs, educators, and industry stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge, and address the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of fluid power.
- **Business Intelligence & Statistics:** NFPA provides members with trusted market information, economic forecasting, and industry data that support informed business planning and strategic decision-making.
- **Promote Fluid Power:** Through events, technology initiatives, digital outreach, and industry promotion efforts, NFPA continues raising awareness of the value and capabilities of modern fluid power technology.
- **Educated Workforce:** NFPA and the NFPA Foundation continue expanding workforce development pathways that connect students, educators, and member companies while preparing the next generation of fluid power professionals.

Thank you for your continued membership and for joining us on this important journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Lanke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

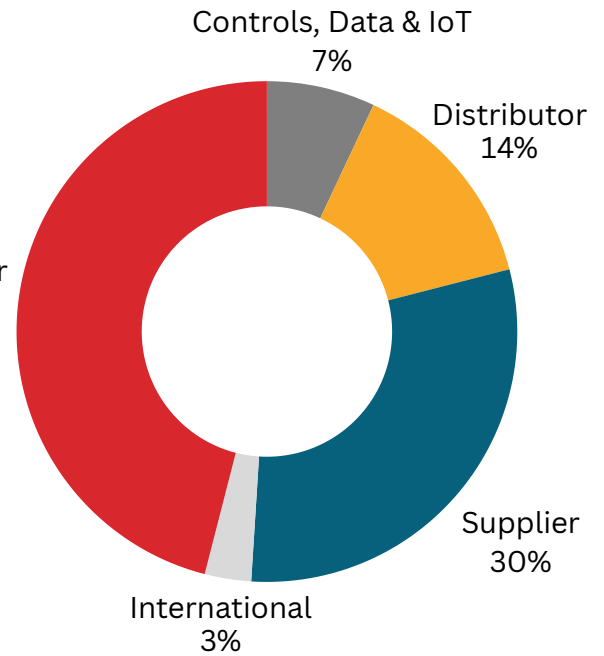
Effective Forum

NFPA provides an effective forum where its members and OEMs network and advance our collective interests.

NEW MEMBERS

- ALA Industries
- Benton Foundry
- Continuum AI
- Endeavor AI
- Fluid Energy Controls, Inc.
- Hanel Manufacturing
- LeverageAI
- Rota Limited
- Settima Meccanica S.R.L.
- Sheffer Corporation
- Scot Forge Company
- Widge AI

Manufacturer
46%



“The long-term relationships built through NFPA events are incredibly valuable.”

-David Stevenson, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Bucher Hydraulics



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS

Festo, Hallite Seals, HYDAC, Hydra-Power Systems, Interlynx Systems, Leggett & Platt, Moseys Production Machinists, National Tube Supply, QCC, ROSS Controls, and Stucchi S.p.A.



Learn more about Sponsorships at www.nfpa.com/nfpa-sponsorship-program

Annual Conference

The NFPA **Annual Conference** is the premier education and networking event for the established and emerging leadership of the fluid power industry.

The 2026 Annual Conference welcomed 280 industry leaders for three days of networking and education in February. Looking ahead, the next conference will take place in Savannah, GA, February 23-25, 2027.

Executive Leadership Program

The NFPA **Executive Leadership Program** is conducted in partnership with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and offers a series of in-person events for a defined cohort of participants that teach both the hard and soft skills that are needed for leadership in today's fluid power industry.

A new cohort began the program at the 2026 Annual Conference in February and will conclude in November 2026. Applications for the next cohort will open soon, with details to be announced. Please contact **President and CEO, Eric Lanke at elanke@nfpa.com** for more information on this program.



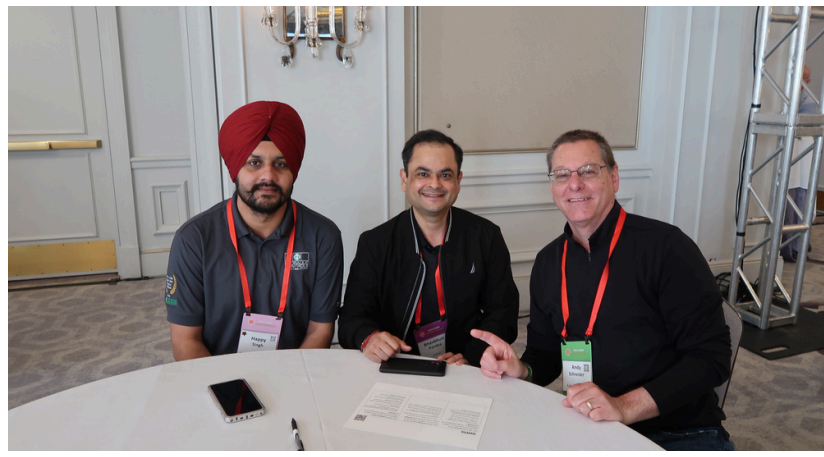
Leadership Network

Our **Leadership Network** is a broad community of established and advancing leaders working together to create the future of the fluid power industry.

With help from both its' chair, Ben Hunger (IC-Fluid Power) and vice chair, Tom Walendzewicz (QCC), the network has participated in a regular series of meetings at our major conferences to network and help advance strategic objectives of critical importance to our members and the fluid power industry.

During their most recent in-person meeting at the 2026 Annual Conference, participants discussed the theme of rare leadership in the workplace, featuring insights from two guest speakers.

This is an active and vibrant group of developing professionals, working to both advance their networks and to make an impact on the fluid power industry.



Contact our **Membership Manager, Denise Husenica at dhusenica@nfpa.com**, for more information about this group.

Webinars and Online Events

This fiscal year, NFPA delivered 11 webinars and online events. These programs explored themes such as:

- Emerging technologies in controls, IoT, and data
- Advances in electrified hydraulics and energy efficiency
- Best practices in system performance, including noise, vibration, and leak prevention
- Market-ready sensor solutions and their impact on fluid power applications
- Economic outlooks and industry trends from leading analysts
- Practical applications of AI across quoting, pricing, and operational workflows
- Workforce recruitment insights and strategies

For more information on upcoming events and learning opportunities, visit www.nfpa.com/events.

"Getting involved in the Leadership Network, Supplier Council, and now the Board, has opened doors I never expected. None of it would've happened if I hadn't decided to dive in."

- Ben Wallis, Enterprise Account Executive at eShipping eShipping



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:



LEADERSHIP NETWORK:

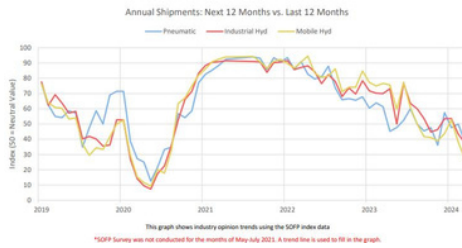
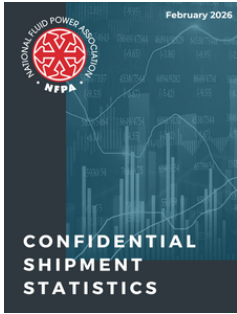


Business Intelligence & Statistic Programs

NFPA offers an array of critical services – leading off with our three core Participation Programs.

These are one-of-a-kind offerings for NFPA members because their content is sourced directly from and provided exclusively to you – with NFPA aggregating your responses into reports that accurately describe and forecast the size, scope, and direction of the fluid power industry.

Confidential Shipment Statistics Program (CSS) presents data on monthly orders and shipments and helps users understand trends and anticipate change in the industry. Data is collected from participating manufacturers, compiled by a third party to maintain confidentiality, and results are sent to CSS participants.



The State of the Fluid Power Industry Survey is a quick and easy electronic survey distributed monthly. It gathers participant opinions through multiple-choice questions to gauge current conditions and future expectations for the industry.

Customer Market Survey provides analysis of fluid power customer market and sales channel segmentation. This survey is conducted among NFPA companies annually. The survey’s fluid power sales data is collected through an independent market research firm to maintain confidentiality. Only survey participants have access to the annual results.

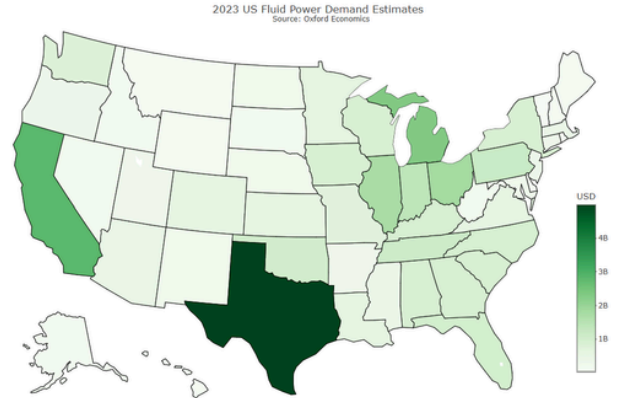
Forecast Reports

NFPA offers two exclusive **forecast reports** for members. One is a quarterly forecast for the U.S. fluid power industry and 30 key U.S. markets produced by ITR Economics.

The other is a quarterly forecast for 78 key countries, including their fluid power industries and several of each of their key markets produced by Oxford Economics.



Regional Demand Estimates Report is an Excel-based estimation of the geographic distribution of fluid power products to end-use industry by the state. The report is published biannually and produced by Oxford Economics.



Economic & Market indicators

We also provide you with a series of reports that offer additional analyses of critical economic and market indicators, such as manufacturing output, capacity utilization, and imports/exports of fluid power products.

All the aforementioned information can be accessed via our two complimentary analysis tools: the **Stats Dashboard**, catering to those in search of a concise overview of data pertinent to their enterprises, and the **Stats Toolkit**, tailored for individuals desiring an in-depth exploration of data series aiding in the identification of trends and pivotal indicators.

These tools animate the NFPA data portfolio, empowering you to render informed decisions for your organization.

Business Intelligence Program

A few years ago we launched our Business Intelligence Program – a series of surveys and reports summarizing qualitative information on emerging issues affecting the fluid power and broader manufacturing industry.

Now members have at their fingertips a growing list of resources addressing compensation benchmarks, the future of artificial intelligence in manufacturing, supply chain disruptions, the pace of reshoring, and other key challenges facing fluid power companies.

All of these reports allow your company to better benchmark yourselves on a variety of business practices and operations.

Econ and Stats Committee

NFPA's **Econ & Stats Committee** provides direction and support to programs that provide data and other market information on the domestic and international fluid power industry and customer markets. This committee helps engage members in creation of value and in program development and delivery.



Please contact **Richard Zarling, Economical and Statistical Manager** at rzarling@nfpa.com for more information on statistical programs and the Econ and Stats committee.

Standards Committees

As the International Standards Organization (ISO) secretariat for Technical Committee (TC 131) – Fluid Power Systems, NFPA coordinates standardization work, both internationally at the ISO level and nationally at the technical advisory group level, in 11 different areas of activity.

These committees work to develop and maintain standards important to the fluid power industry, and offer good opportunities for working with peers, supply chain partners and OEM customers on both technical challenges and on the promotion of fluid power technology. Participants are welcome to work on as many committees, or as few, as they wish. Please contact **Industry Promotion and Standards Development Manager, Ben Brown** at bbrown@nfpa.com to get involved.



Supplier Council

NFPA's **Supplier Council** helps ensure that association offerings align with the interests and priorities of supplier members. By identifying opportunities for engagement and representation, the Council plays a key role in helping suppliers connect with and benefit from NFPA programs. To learn more, please contact our **Membership Manager, Denise Husenica** at dhusenica@nfpa.com.

Distributor Council

NFPA's **Distributor Council** influences association program development and delivery to better serve the needs of NFPA's distributor members and helps those members plug into those programs. The Council is helping source content for NFPA events to ensure relevance for distributor members and to encourage greater attendance among distributors. The Council is also providing guidance to develop better indicators and business intelligence on and for the distribution channel. For more information, please contact **Vice President of Member Services, Pete Alles** at palles@nfpa.com.

These councils will next meet during the 2026 Industry & Economic Outlook Conference (IEOC) on August 19. These meetings provide members opportunities to share industry insights, discuss market trends, and help guide NFPA programs and initiatives.



Industry & Economic Outlook Conference

The **Industry & Economic Outlook Conference** is the premier economic and market forecasting conference for the fluid power industry and the key markets it serves, featuring presentations from leading economists and market analysts.

This is the one program most members rave as their “can’t miss” event. The next IEOC is scheduled for August 17-19, 2026 at the Oak Brook Hills Hilton in Oak Brook, IL. Registration is now open for the event on our website www.nfpa.com/events.



“We gain great insight into the future of our business from the economic data that NFPA has presented. The quality of the speakers is extraordinary.”

- Ken Baker, CEO at Bailey International

Promote Fluid Power

Fluid power technology's wide applicability across various mobile and industrial machines creates a bustling trade show schedule. NFPA is revitalizing its Trade Show Pavilion program to focus on key customer market trade shows, providing enhanced visibility for NFPA members. We encourage collaboration to maximize exposure and expand the footprint of fluid power at these significant events.



CONEXPO-CON/AGG

In March, NFPA remained a committed supporter of **CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2026**, the largest construction show in North America, held in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the show, NFPA hosted a successful **Advanced Hydraulics Technology Conference**, focused on the latest innovations in fluid power for off-highway vehicles.

Many NFPA members also exhibited at the event, strengthening the industry's presence and connecting with key OEM audiences across construction and related sectors. The next CONEXPO-CON/AGG will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, from March 13–17, 2029.

iVT Off-Highway Vehicle Technology Expo

Now in its third year, NFPA's Advanced Hydraulics Conference returns to **iVT EXPO USA**, taking place August 19–20, 2026, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

Held alongside iVT EXPO, a premier event for the off-highway vehicle design and engineering community, the conference will spotlight the latest technologies and innovations in hydraulics, components, and system integration. Learn more at <https://ivtexpo-usa.com/>.

Last year, more than 45 NFPA members exhibited at this show. iVT EXPO takes place during the same week as NFPA's Industry and Economic Outlook Conference (IEOC), and a shuttle will be available to transport members to the event for a nominal fee.



Roadmap Committee and Technology Roadmap

The 2025 **NFPA Industrial Technology Roadmap** outlines how fluid power technology must evolve to meet changing industrial market demands. Developed through industry-wide collaboration, the Roadmap connects customer needs to research, education, and innovation priorities.

To support implementation efforts, NFPA convened an Industrial Technology Task Force focused on key challenges including electrified hydraulics, connectivity, efficiency, and leak prevention. NFPA's Technology Task Forces bring OEM and fluid power engineers together to better understand emerging trends in automation, digitalization, electrification, and connectivity across both mobile and industrial applications.

NFPA also continues expanding its library of technology resources available to members and the broader industry, including podcasts, task force reports, case studies, webinars, and additional educational content designed to help companies apply Roadmap insights to system design, product development, and customer engagement.

With the industrial Roadmap complete, NFPA is now preparing a Mobile Technology Roadmap scheduled for publication in 2027. Additional resources and reports are available at www.nfpa.com/technologyreports.

AUTOMATE
June 22–25, 2026 • Chicago, Illinois, USA

AUTOMATE

Building on a successful presence in 2025, NFPA will return to the **AUTOMATE** trade show in Chicago on June 24, 2026, for its second year of educational programming focused on these innovations.

Across three presentations from NFPA member companies, attendees will learn how these emerging technologies are being applied in the in-plant environment. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the future of fluid power and connect with industry leaders driving innovation. For more information, visit <https://www.automateshow.com/>.



To learn more or get involved in our **Working Groups**, contact **President and CEO, Eric Lanke** at elanke@nfpa.com

Fluid Power Forum

Launched in August of 2019, Fluid Power Forum is an industry-focused podcast featuring interesting and innovative applications of hydraulics and pneumatics straight from many of the industry's top fluid power professionals and experts.

With a wide range of topics, this series covers the most crucial, and sometimes unexpected, technology and applications that are moving the fluid power industry forward.

Through May 2026, the series has released 176 episodes and surpassed 76,500 downloads, demonstrating its growing impact and reach.

Featured episodes have explored:

- Silent Efficiency: Hydraulics for Electrified Machines
- Electro-Hydraulic Solutions for Heavy Truck Steering
- Pneumatic Cobots and Smart Manufacturing
- The Future of Mobile Machine Electrification
- Leadership Journeys in Fluid Power

Episodes are released every other Monday and can be streamed in your web browser or found on your favorite podcast platforms including Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Heart Radio and Spotify.

We're always looking for new topics and guests so if you'd like to be a part of a Fluid Power Forum episode, reach out to **Industry Promotion and Standards Development Manager, Ben Brown at bbrown@nfpa.com** to get started.

Social Media Promotion

In the pursuit of expanding our outreach, NFPA diligently crafts promotional content spotlighting the fluid power industry and its technological advancements. This content is strategically disseminated across social media platforms, with a primary focus on LinkedIn and Instagram.

Our engaging podcast serves as valuable content for sharing across these platforms, encouraging members to amplify our messages through their own social media channels. Emphasizing intriguing and pioneering applications of fluid power technology remains our core focus, underscored by the distinctive hashtag #onlyfluidpowercan, aimed at capturing the attention of our audience.

This year, NFPA surpassed 10,000 followers on LinkedIn, reflecting the continued growth of our digital presence and engagement across the fluid power community.

Utilizing the hashtag serves as a practical tool to aggregate all our social media promotions, presenting a cohesive narrative of NFPA's endeavors. We invite all stakeholders to leverage this tool for broader engagement. Follow us on Instagram [@the_nfpa](https://www.instagram.com/the_nfpa) and LinkedIn [@TheNationalFluidPowerAssociation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-national-fluid-power-association) to stay updated on our latest initiatives.



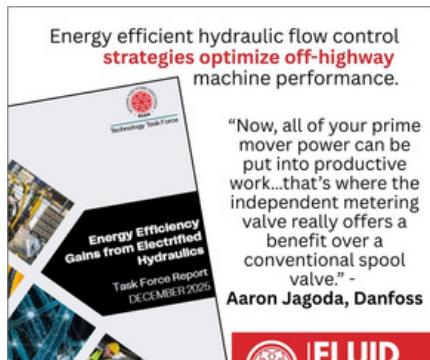
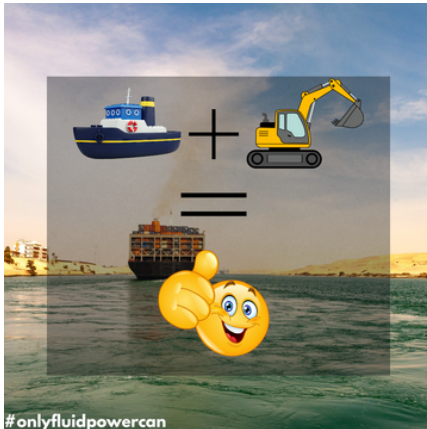
Instagram:

@the_nfpa



LinkedIn:

@The National Fluid Power Association



Workforce Development

The **NFPA Foundation** stands as a pivotal force in advancing fluid power education, outreach, and research initiatives, bolstering the growth of our industry.

NFPA's Fast Track to Fluid Power connects technical colleges, high schools, and NFPA members to create workforce pathways that guide students toward careers in fluid power. Through hands-on learning opportunities and industry engagement, students gain exposure to real-world applications of hydraulics and pneumatics while building valuable technical and professional skills.

The **Fluid Power Action Challenge** has introduced more than 32,000 middle and high school students to engineering concepts through hands-on fluid power competitions that encourage innovation and problem-solving. Transitioning into high school, Fast Track High Schools provide students with fluid power curriculum and applied classroom experiences that connect education with industry careers.



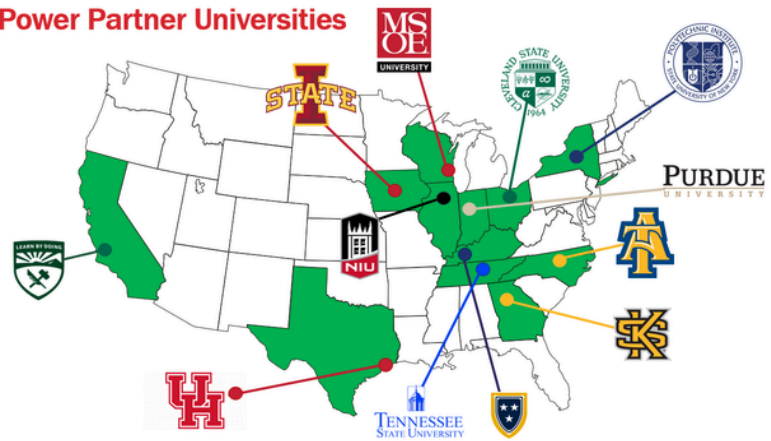
Fast Track Hub Schools continue strengthening the workforce pipeline through partnerships with Houston Community College (TX), Macomb Community College (MI), Tri-C Cuyahoga Community College (OH), Triton College (IL), Waukesha County Technical College (WI), Hennepin Technical College (MN), and Northampton Community College (PA).



Through the **Speaker's Bureau program**, NFPA connects member volunteers with schools for classroom presentations, facility tours, and career discussions that help students explore opportunities in fluid power and connect with potential employers.

The **Power Partner Program** collaborates with universities nationwide to strengthen fluid power curriculum, industry engagement, and workforce connections for engineering students. Since launching the program, NFPA has expanded its university network to include California Polytechnic State University, Kennesaw State University, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Houston, creating additional opportunities for NFPA members to recruit and engage with students across a broader geographic footprint.

Power Partner Universities



Workforce Engagement Groups connect NFPA members, educators, and students across Fast Track regions in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin, as well as through the University Workforce Engagement Group serving Power Partner Universities in Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, New York, and California. Together, these groups support workforce development, share industry insights, and strengthen recruiting opportunities across the fluid power industry.

NFPA supports 20 active **Fluid Power Clubs** engaging more than 180 engineering students through hands-on learning, industry collaboration, and networking opportunities.

Supported by the NFPA Foundation, these clubs help students apply classroom knowledge to real-world fluid power challenges through projects, workshops, and events. Programs such as the Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge, Industry Connection Events, and the Speaker's Bureau continue connecting students directly with industry professionals and career opportunities.

During the 2025–26 academic year, students are also developing six hands-on fluid power projects across four universities and high schools to expand practical learning opportunities nationwide.



Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge

The **NFPA Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge** celebrated its 10th year of hands-on fluid power education in 2025–26 with its largest cohort yet, featuring 32 participating universities, including several new university teams.

Throughout the academic year, student teams design, build, and test human-powered fluid power vehicles while gaining real-world engineering experience through presentations, design reviews, and competition events. This year’s finals were hosted by Sun Hydraulics in Florida, IFP Motion Solutions in Iowa, and IMI plc in Illinois.

Thirty companies supported the program as sponsors, mentors, judges, hosts, suppliers, and networking participants, helping connect students directly with industry professionals and career opportunities. Nearly 160 student resumes were also shared with Pascal Society supporters and participating companies.

A special moment at NFPA’s Annual Conference celebrated the program’s 10-year anniversary by recognizing eight Vehicle Challenge alumni now employed by NFPA member companies.

Please contact **Workforce Program Manager, Mary Pluta** at mpluta@nfpa.com for more information on the Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge.



“The Vehicle Challenge showed me that hydraulics can be used in so many different ways, and it helped lead me to my career at IFP Motion Solutions.”

- Ben Quade, Iowa State University Alumnus

Industry Connection Events connect students directly with fluid power professionals through networking sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and recruiting opportunities hosted at NFPA Power Partner Universities.

These events give students valuable exposure to career pathways, emerging technologies, and industry trends while helping strengthen the pipeline between education and the fluid power industry.

NFPA Scholarships

During this fiscal year, 20 scholarships were awarded to students pursuing careers in engineering and fluid power-related fields, including 17 **Fluid Power Scholarships** and three scholarships awarded through the **Tom Wanke Legacy Fund**. These scholarships continue to support and inspire the next generation of fluid power professionals and innovators.

NFPA member volunteers also played an important role in the scholarship process by serving as judges and helping select this year’s recipients, demonstrating the industry’s continued commitment to developing future talent and supporting workforce growth. To learn more about our scholarship opportunities, please contact **Workforce Program Manager, Haley Nemeth** at hnemeth@nfpa.com.

The Foundation also continues supporting educational growth through **Fluid Power Curriculum Grants**, which help universities integrate fluid power coursework and hands-on learning into engineering programs nationwide.



The **Pascal Society**, the annual giving society of the NFPA Foundation, provides critical support for workforce development, education, and industry outreach initiatives that strengthen the future of fluid power.



By combining the financial and volunteer contributions of industry leaders, the Pascal Society helps develop the resources, tools, and talent needed to support the industry’s workforce pipeline.

With your Pascal gift, representatives from your company will receive exclusive invitations to participate in our most impactful programs – the Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge and our Student Resume Bank. To learn more about the **Pascal Society**, visit www.nfpa.com/our-impact.



Contact **Vice President of Workforce Development, Stephanie Scaccianoce** at ssccianoce@nfpa.com to learn more about and donate to support our latest workforce development programs.



The Power of Association

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