



For Immediate Release

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Gene Haas Foundation Gifts \$1 Million to SME-Education Foundation

Stewart-Haas Racing Drivers Danica Patrick and Ryan Newman To Carry SME-Education Foundation Logos on Racecars at Dover

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. (Sept. 25, 2013) – When Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) drivers Danica Patrick and Ryan Newman wheel their Chevrolets onto the track for the Sept. 29 AAA 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Dover (Del.) International Speedway, their racecars will spotlight the Gene Haas Foundation and its most recent grant recipient: the Society of Manufacturing Engineers – Education Foundation (SME-Education Foundation).

The Gene Haas Foundation, formed in 1999 by SHR co-owner Gene Haas, recently gifted \$1 million to the SME-Education Foundation with the money designated for scholarships in manufacturing training and education. The scholarships will benefit as many as 1,000 students entering machinist training programs in the United States and abroad.

The scholarship application can be found at www.smeef.org/scholarships/page/gene-haas-machine-technology-scholarships.

“This gift from the Gene Haas Foundation allows us to open up multiple pathways for students,” said Bart Aslin, CEO of the SME-Education Foundation. “Companies engaged in machining technology are searching for skilled machinists, but they are hard to find. The Gene Haas Machining Technology Scholarship allows us to address this problem by providing the proper education and skills necessary for a successful career in the machining industry.”

Providing scholarship funds to community colleges and vocational schools for students entering technical training programs, especially machinist-based certificate and degree programs, is of particular interest to the Gene Haas Foundation. Haas is the founder of Oxnard, Calif.-based Haas Automation, the largest and most modern machine tool builder in the western world.

“As a leader in the machine tool industry, I see firsthand the continued need to build a qualified workforce through machining training and education,” Haas said. “It’s very important to me, personally, to help secure this training for future machinists in our industry, which is why the Gene Haas Foundation chose to make a \$1 million grant to the SME-Education Foundation this year for scholarships.

“These scholarships will help prepare people for manufacturing careers, and in turn, help the manufacturing industry obtain qualified people for the hundreds of thousands of unfilled manufacturing jobs in our county. Workforce development is a key way to improve the lives of so many while also helping to build a stronger economy for all. I’m very happy to support the SME-Education Foundation, and I’m looking forward to seeing their logos on our racecars this weekend in Dover.”

Patrick’s No. 10 GoDaddy Chevrolet will carry the Gene Haas Foundation and SME-Education Foundation logos on its lower rear quarter panels, while Newman’s No. 39 State Water Heaters Chevrolet will feature SME-Education Foundation logos on its C-post.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can do so by visiting www.smeef.org. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, depending on the cost of the applicant’s program. A scholarship committee will review the applications as they are submitted to ensure minimum eligibility requirements are met. The SME-Education Foundation will then send the scholarship funds directly to the recipient’s school.

“Having our logo on Stewart-Haas Racing’s cars at Dover will bring attention to our Foundation, driving traffic to our Website, www.smeef.org, where more people can learn about the wide array of careers in the machining industry,” Aslin said.

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About SME Education Foundation:

The SME Education Foundation is committed to inspiring, preparing and supporting the next generation of manufacturing engineers and technologists in the advancement of manufacturing education. Created by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 1979, the SME Education Foundation has provided more than \$33 million since 1980 in grants, scholarships and awards through its partnerships with corporations, organizations, foundations and individual donors. Visit the SME Education Foundation at www.smeef.org. Also visit www.CareerMe.org for information on advanced manufacturing careers and www.ManufacturingisCool.com, our award-winning Website for young people.

About the Gene Haas Foundation:

Founded by Gene Haas, the foundation has awarded more than \$15 million to deserving charities since 1999. It was formed to fund the needs of the local community and other deserving charities, and has expanded to provide scholarships for students entering technical training programs, especially machinist-based certificate and degree programs at community colleges and vocational schools. To date, more than 800 charitable organizations have received funds from the Gene Haas Foundation. For more information, visit www.ghaasfoundation.org.

About Haas Automation:

Haas Automation, Inc., is America's leading builder of CNC machine tools. Founded by Gene Haas in 1983, Haas Automation manufactures a complete line of CNC lathes and rotary equipment. All Haas products are built in the company's 1 million square-foot manufacturing facility in Oxnard, Calif., and distributed through a worldwide network of Haas Factory Outlets that provides the industry's best sales, service and support while offering unparalleled cost-to-performance value. For more information, please visit www.haascnc.com.

About Stewart-Haas Racing:

Stewart-Haas Racing is the title-winning NASCAR Sprint Cup Series team co-owned by three-time Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart and Gene Haas, founder of Haas Automation – the largest CNC machine tool builder in the western world. The team fields three entries in the elite Sprint Cup Series – the No. 14 Bass Pro Shops/Mobil 1 Chevrolet for Stewart, the No. 39 Quicken Loans Chevrolet for 2008 Daytona 500 and 2013 Brickyard 400 winner Ryan Newman, and the No. 10 GoDaddy Chevrolet for Danica Patrick. Based in Kannapolis, N.C., Stewart-Haas Racing operates out of a 140,000-square-foot facility with more than 200 employees. For more information, please visit us on the Web at www.StewartHaasRacing.com, on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/StewartHaasRacing and follow on Twitter @StewartHaasRcng.

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