

Piedmont Chapter Education Report February 2010

Submitted by: James Sturgeon

Recently there has been a great deal of exciting developments surrounding the status of the VT FIRE project. I am very pleased to announce that construction bids have been received, reviewed, and approved! This means that the idea conceived from within our chapter many years ago will now become a reality!

Construction is slated to begin this March with plans to be complete before the start of the fall semester. The VT FIRE Committee and Champions have worked very diligently to arrive at this point, and will share some of the project details with us during our dinner at the March meeting. Here are a few of the project highlights that will be of interest to everyone:

- Applications are now being accepted for the dedicated metal casting professor position. This individual will be a key part of shaping the education and research portion of VT FIRE. This position is will be filled by the start of the fall semester.
- Upon completion of construction VT FIRE's capabilities will include
 - Induction melting
 - Melting of ferrous and non-ferrous alloys
 - No-bake molding
 - Investment casting
 - Rapid prototyping
 - Cleaning and finishing
 - And more.....

Most importantly the completion of this facility and its staff will foster a new era of metal casting education at Virginia Tech. However, even with this level of activity over the next few months, the work of our chapter is not yet done. As Randy has mentioned in his opening article the Chapter's Board of Directors has voted to extend its financial commitment to the success of this endeavor. Over the next months we will be formulating a fundraising effort to supplement and support our commitment. I invite everyone to participate in this process. I look forward to hearing any ideas or comments on possible fundraising opportunities. See you all in Blacksburg.

"Progress Through Education"

