

NEWS RELEASE

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AWIEF Awards \$186,120 in Education Grants to 26 Schools

*The Architectural Woodwork Institute Education Foundation Grants
Benefit Up to 4,500 Students in 2026*

Potomac Falls, VA (October 6, 2026) — **The Architectural Woodwork Institute Education Foundation Grants Application is now open for 2027.** Submissions for the 2027 AWIEF Grant Program will be accepted from eligible schools beginning Oct. 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. For details and submission forms [click here](#).

Last year the Education Foundation of the Architectural Woodwork Institute received 40 applications for its 2026 Grant Program from schools to purchase equipment for their woodworking programs. Out of this record-breaking number of applications, the AWIEF Board of Directors awarded \$186,120 to 26 schools from as far west as Utah and to the east, North Carolina.

“This year, four schools committed matching funds totaling an additional \$42,500 for equipment and/or technology for their school programs, bringing the total industry impact to \$228,620,” said AWI CEO Doug Hague.

Most grant requests this year were for equipment or technology purchases such as shapers, routers, CNC machines, band saw, air compressors and table saws.

“The number of grant applications has been growing over the last several years from nine in 2022; 11 in 2023; 18 in 2024; 35 in 2025; to 40 in 2026. The Foundation’s Grant Program awards totaled \$108,086 in 2022 to an all-time high of \$186,120 in 2026,” said AWIEF Chair Bruce Spitz (2018 AWI President). “Since the Grant Program was launched in 2018, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$623,000 to schools for improvements to their woodwork programs that have helped put thousands of students on a path to rewarding careers in the industry,” Hague added.

“The work of the Foundation is to help develop the workforce for the woodwork industry. We do this through grants to schools for start-up woodworking programs, improve safety and efficiency in existing programs and assist in bringing state-of-the-art equipment to school programs. We have helped schools at all levels from middle schools to high schools to community college and university programs,” Spitz explained.

Thanks to a generous \$1 million donation in 2021 from the Quality Certification Corporation (QCC), the AWI Education Foundation is able to award Randolph Estabrook Scholarships to students and Grants to schools each year for 20 years. Coupled with generous donations from AWI Members, AWIEF, “the giving arm” of AWI, is able to supplement the QCC endowment and The mission of the Architectural Woodwork Institute [Education Foundation \(AWIEF\)](#) is to identify, cultivate and deliver resources that provide opportunities for education and professional development in the architectural woodwork industry. Founded in 2008 with a generous endowment from the Architectural Woodwork Institute, the AWIEF is a 501(c)(3) public charity, non-profit foundation.

provide opportunities for education and professional development for the next generation of woodworking professionals.

AWI's largest donations come from the generous donors at the closing event during the annual convention. This year's event is happening October 23 in Bonita Springs, Florida. "Last year our donor support was unbelievable, now with a higher bar set, we look forward to achieving new goals this year," said AWI CEO Doug Hague.

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