



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PPEF AWARDS \$9,000 IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Irving, Texas, (May 6, 2008) Promotional Products Education Foundation (PPEF) has announced recipients of its 2008 Professional Development Grants. A total of \$9,000 in professional development grants has been awarded this year.

The professional development grants provide financial assistance to industry professionals wanting to attend industry-related continuing education courses. The recipients were chosen based on essays about career goals, the role of education, future plans and justification for why the candidate should be selected. A volunteer committee comprised of board members from PPEF judged the essays without knowing the identities of the applicants.

PPEF awarded **Professional Development Grants** to the following industry professionals desiring to learn and grow in their fields. The grant may be used for tuition, housing and round-trip travel and recipients are given up to 24 months to use the grant. Recipients are:

- Lori Dobrez, Gemline, Women's Leadership Conference
- Andrew Nisenshal, Jazz It Up, Promotional Consultant Academy & Learning Lab
- Tonia Tersigni Ho, The Vernon Company, PPAI Education-TBD
- Christine Valento, Webb Company, PPAI Education- TBD

In addition, for the second year, PPEF joined with Promotional Professionals Mentoring Network (PPMN) to provide joint funding for the **PPMN-PPEF Professional Development Grants**. Working together, PPMN and PPEF hope to further their educational missions and strengthen the promotional products industry. The applications were also blind-judged by board members from PPEF and PPMN. The grant may be used for tuition, housing and round-trip travel and recipients are given up to 24 months to use the grant. Recipients are:

- Donna Bender, The Donna Bender Company, Women's Leadership Conference
- Diane Sakowicz, MAS, Service With A Smile, Inc., Presidents' Forum
- Mike Schenker, MAS, Catalina Bay USA, Presidents' Forum
- Frances H. Silverman, MAS, Leed's, Women's Leadership Conference

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To learn more about applying for the 2009 professional development grants, log on to www.ppai.org/ppef, and click on the application forms. The application deadline for 2009 is March 15, 2009. Please direct questions to Sara Besly at SaraB@ppai.org.

Applicants for the PPMN-PPEF grants must be PPMN members. For information about joining PPMN, go to www.ppmn.com. To become a PPEF donor, visit www.ppai.org/ppef. For more information about Promotional Products Association International (PPAI) or to learn more about the proven power of promotional products (including research and case studies), visit the PPAI website at www.ppai.org or contact PPAI at 972-258-3041 or PR@ppai.org.

PPEF was founded to recognize and encourage scholastic ability and academic performance among promotional products industry employees and their dependents. Since its inception in 1989, PPEF has awarded \$440,000 in college scholarships and \$21,000 in professional development grants.

PPMN was formed to provide a forum for those who want to expand their network in the promotional products industry, develop new contacts and benefit from being mentored or from mentoring others.

PPAI—the promotional products industry’s only international not-for-profit trade association—offers education, tradeshow, business products and services, mentoring, technology and legislative support to its more than 7,500 global members. Promotional products are an \$18.8 billion industry and include wearables, writing instruments, calendars, drinkware and many other items, usually imprinted with a company’s name, logo or message. PPAI created and maintains the UPIC (Universal Promotional Identification Code), the industry’s only free identification system and universal company database

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