

THE FURNITURE
FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING EDUCATION *and* RESEARCH

in support of **THE HOME FURNISHINGS INDUSTRY**

what **WE DO**

WE EDUCATE. The Furniture Foundation funded the Furniture Manufacturing and Management curriculum at **North Carolina State University** in Raleigh until 1991 and provided scholarship funds to furniture-focused engineering students at NC State for nearly two decades after that.

Beginning in 2002, the Foundation diversified its support and began backing additional educational and training programs emerging at other colleges and universities. Foundation grants

helped launch the Institute for Furniture Manufacturing and Management at **Mississippi State University** in Starkville. Housed in the Franklin Center, the Institute was a multi-disciplinary effort involving the colleges of business, engineering/-forest resources, and architecture/art and design. The Institute was reorganized in 2017 as the Franklin Innovation Center and continues providing testing and research for the industry while also focusing on innovation and technology.

Foundation grants also support furniture design students in the Industrial Design Program at **Appalachian State University** in Boone, North Carolina.

WE RESEARCH. From 1991 to 2011, the Foundation supported technical research at NC State that examined furniture industry scheduling, forecasting, ergonomics, robotics, kiln scheduling and product development using computer-aided design. Now part of the Center for Additive Manufacturing and Logistics, the lab continues researching answers to questions about furniture design, construction and reliability.

WE TRAIN. In 2016, the Foundation began providing significant scholarship and development funds for the **Catawba Valley Community College** Furniture Academy in Hickory, North Carolina, which now includes a second academy in Alexander County. Both programs provide industry-driven

training designed to prepare students for industrial sewing and upholstery positions throughout the region.

The Foundation also helps support a training program at nearby **Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute** in Hudson, North Carolina. CCC&TI's Furniture Factory Lab, opened in April 2019, offers state-of-the-art training for automated cutting, sewing and upholstery.



Appalachian State University furniture design students

WE INNOVATE. The Furniture Foundation continues seeking fresh ideas, educational opportunities and research initiatives focused on building a stronger industry. It has funded executive training and leadership development for young industry professionals and even provided seed money for a Discovery Center in the new **Home Furnishings Hall of Fame** in High Point.

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute student at Fairfield Chair



our HISTORY

1926

The Furniture Foundation was established by Henry A. Foscue, a Jamestown, North Carolina native. His furniture industry career began in 1926 at Globe Parlor Furniture Company where he worked for 44 years, eventually serving as its president and chairman.

1958

In 1958, he led a group of manufacturers in establishing the Furniture Manufacturing and Management curriculum at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

1959

The Furniture Manufacturing and Management program became his greatest passion, and to provide for its ongoing funding, Foscue established **The Furniture Foundation** in 1959.

1985

Foscue served as the Foundation's president until his death in 1985. At that time, the American Furniture Manufacturers Association, now the American Home Furnishings Alliance, stepped in as administrator.

Catawba Valley Community College Furniture Academy



MORE THAN

\$4.2 million

AWARDED
SINCE 1990

\$130,000

in equipment &
scholarships for upholstery
training programs



More than

\$400,000

in furniture design
scholarships

*Future investments are limited only by the imagination of the institutions
and individuals working to promote the growth of our industry.*

how YOU CAN HELP

The AHFA Furniture Foundation supports research and educational programs aimed at improving management, manufacturing and marketing within the residential furniture industry. 100% of your tax-deductible gift goes toward Foundation grants and scholarships. The Furniture Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Companies or individuals interested in donating should go to:

<https://www.ahfa.us/what-we-do/furniture-foundation>, or contact Andy Counts at accounts@ahfa.us.

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