

## **The Dennis Cesarotti Scholarship in Safety and Industrial Hygiene**

The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support towards tuition and other educational related expenses for a senior level student who is seeking an undergraduate degree in the Industrial Management & Technology, Environmental Safety & Health emphasis in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, and preferably within two semesters of degree completion.

### **The Award:**

One scholarship valued at \$1,000 for one academic year. The award may be applied to tuition, academic fees, required text, and room/board.

### **Eligibility:**

- Candidates must be enrolled at NIU as full-time undergraduate student in the Department of Technology in the environmental safety area of study, and in good academic standing. Full-time is defined as a minimum of 12 semester hours of course work per semester.
- Priority will be given to students who have taken three courses in the safety area of study **OR** who have completed Industrial Hygiene (TECH 437)
- Candidates must have a minimum cumulative NIU GPA of 2.50.

### **Requirements:**

- Recipients must remain a declared technology major in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology for the awarded semester.
- Recipients must earn a minimum of 12 semester hours for the awarded semester.
- Recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of above 2.50.

### **About the Benefactor:**

The scholarship is given in remembrance of Dennis Cesarotti who passed away January 29, 2010. Dennis Cesarotti's mastery as a teacher of all things related to occupational safety was known across the country. When he joined the faculty in the Department of Technology in 2003, he had already logged more than 20 years working in the risk management field, including founding the Aires Consulting Group, which had offices across the country.

He was known for challenging students and himself, asking professionals in the field if he was teaching what students needed to know. "He wasn't just focused on helping them earn a degree," says Chuck Carroll, NIU alum. "He was interested in providing students the best opportunity to make a success of their lives."

In addition to teaching, Cesarotti was named director of the college's OSHA Safety Education Center in 2009, and he had been using his impressive skills in the safety area to expand the center offerings.

He stood front and center as the university began crafting certificate programs aimed at preparing students for careers related to homeland security, teaching related courses and building an online course that became a pre-requisite for homeland security courses statewide. He was helping to lead an effort aimed at creating cooperative certificate programs that allow students to draw upon the strengths of programs at universities across Illinois.

"Dennis was everyone's friend and he was always there to help. He never said no to anything," said Cliff Mirman, Chair of the Department of Technology. "It was hard to stop him from teaching five or six courses a semester – and that was on top of running our OSHA Safety Education Center."

Professor Cesarotti is survived by his wife Cindy, and their daughters, Katy and Cari.