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### **DEPS Aims to Secure the Future of Graduate Memorial Scholarships**

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., May 19-** The Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS) is pleased to announce a new fund-raising effort to support their graduate scholarship program. Aiming to raise \$500,000 over a five-year period, DEPS hopes these efforts will ensure long-term viability of their two named memorial scholarships.

The Dr. Samuel Blankenship Directed Energy Scholar Award, a \$10,000 award granted annually to the individual with the outstanding scholarship application, was established in 2018 in honor of lifelong educator and DEPS' first Executive Director, Dr. Samuel Blankenship. Dr. Blankenship led the organization through its first eleven years of existence and was instrumental in the establishment and growth of DEPS, as well as its numerous educational outreach activities including the graduate directed energy (DE) scholarship program.

The Dr. Jack Slater Award, another \$10,000 award granted annually to a student focusing their research efforts on high energy lasers (HEL), was established in honor of Dr. Jack Slater. Dr. Slater served for 16 years as the senior technical advisor at the High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office (now the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office), where he led the transition to solid-state electric laser technology and the government diagnostic measurement program. Dr. Slater also co-authored the "power-in-the-bucket" measurement criteria now used for all Department of Defense laser source evaluations.

Striving to make these memorial scholarships self-funding after the initial five-year gifting period, DEPS will accept contributions through online donations hosted on the DEPS website, as well as by check mailed to the DEPS office. DEPS is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, meaning all designated donations to the scholarship endowment fund are tax-free donations.

“The current DEPS scholarship program relies entirely on grants from government organizations, such as the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office and the Office of Naval Research. Defense related research budgets are under constant scrutiny and year-to-year assurance is tenuous. It behooves the professional society to strive for independence from outside organizational support and to offer continuity to the named scholarships we are organizing in honor of those who laid the groundwork for the next generation of DE researchers,” said Dr. Larry Grimes, DE-JTO.

The Joint Directed Energy Transition Office (DE-JTO), previously known as the High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office, has made valuable contributions to the DE technology base for the last 20 years. These contributions include advancement of solid-state, fiber and other electrically-driven lasers; maturation of key laser and optical components for HELs, experimentation and educational outreach efforts funding the next generation of DE contributors, and educating today’s executives and government officials.

The Directed Energy Professional Society fosters research, development and transition of directed energy (DE) technologies, including high energy laser (HEL) and high-power microwave (HPM) technologies, for national defense and civilian applications through professional communication and education. For more information, visit [www.deps.org](http://www.deps.org).

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