



# FFEIT NEWSLETTER

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## NOTE FROM MANAGING TRUSTEE, FFE INDIA TRUST



Dear Friends,

FFE is proud and happy to be celebrating its silver jubilee year in 2019! FFE will be completing 25 years of excellence and creating positive impact in young lives and communities in India; undoubtedly the impact has spread worldwide where FFE's alumni today study and/or work. FFE's founders Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel envisioned impacting at least 10,000 students since the organization was established in 1994, in California, USA. Since then, in numbers alone, we have doubled the impact, awarding more scholarships (in excess of 20,000) and enriching the scholarship program (through training and mentoring) to create meaningful impact and transformation.

This year we are celebrating not just the success of our hallmark Scholarship Program, that has impacted more than 20,000 lives through our merit and means scholarships but also FFE's new initiatives- Skills training for employability and Mentoring, both of which have gained interest and traction in our student community. This

year, we are honouring our past while also catalysing an exciting future. We are deeply honoured and grateful for your myriad ways of support- financial, time, talent, your networks and good will. Twenty-five years since the start, FFE's self- sustainability model and its success is evident; initially FFE's alumni worldwide began to support the Foundation in small ways; today this has grown into a robust alumni program with more than 800 alumni supporting FFE through financial contributions during a single FY alone! Creating change for good has been the goal. FFE, during its twenty-five years has provided opportunities for personal and professional empowerment of our main stakeholders- our students while also providing opportunities for individuals (students and alumni) to connect, learn, reflect and take action about their future, leveraging the power of networking between student peers and alumni and more recently, mentors.

The power of our work throughout India and the ripples of impact that it creates that will continue into the future, backed by our self-sustainability model makes FFE unique with the ability to scale. We look forward to your continued support as we prepare ourselves for a future that we can create together.

Sudha Kidao  
Managing Trustee  
FFE India Trust

## News & Events

### I. FFE Student Meet – SVNIT, Surat



Dr. Sudha Kidao (Managing Trustee, FFE) & Ms. Sandhya Manoj (COO, FFE) along with FFE scholars at FFE Student Meet – SVNIT, Surat

FFE's interest and commitment to meeting scholarship awardees each year began with FFE's first student meet held on 10th August 2019, at SVNIT (Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology) Surat. FFE's Donor and SVNIT alumnus, Mr. Suraj Moraje, Senior Partner in McKinsey, presided over the event, accompanied by a second alumnus, Mr. Srihari Palangala, Senior Director and Head of Marketing at Dell EMC.

82 SVNIT Engineering students from across all 4 years of engineering attended the Q&A Open session which provided for a free exchange of ideas between the students and the guests. Topics ranged from changing industry trends, start-ups, personal and professional management along with the more mundane time and stress management queries all of which were deftly addressed.

Also participating at the event were FFE Facilitators Mr. Suresh Ballar V (SVNIT Alumnus), and Dr. Jagdish Patel, Mayor of Surat.

FFE also introduced a new program 'Finding the Leader in You' (FLY) through an awareness session for FFE scholars at SVNIT. The Competitiveness Mindfulness initiative is expected to instil 5 specific, essential, non-cognitive skills for students to improve their employability and will be conducted by Competitiveness Mindset Institute (CMI), a non-profit, education and research institute in USA in partnership with IIT-Gandhinagar.

## II. Community Outreach

### Mentorship Program

FFE is committed to helping its scholars achieve their full potential and bring about a transformation of their lives. The fast pace of change in the digital economy requires students to adapt quickly, upskill and be ready for the competitive marketplace while also maintaining good academic records. Being guided by an experienced industry mentor at this critical time in a student's life can have positive, impactful and far-

reaching consequences. The mentoring program designed and implemented by FFE addresses ways for students to handle these issues under the stewardship of a mentor and is targeted to better prepare 3<sup>rd</sup> year Engineering student mentees for their future. Out of 209 mentees, 147 (70 %) of them have successfully completed the program. 88 of the mentees who have completed the program have also gained employment.

Here are thoughts penned by a mentor-mentee pair.



*"In the mentoring sessions, we discussed several confidence building techniques described in the study material. We discussed dos and don'ts of a good resume. I shared my career path with Lakshmi – my mentee. We talked about different kinds of stress and different methods to deal with it. Lakshmi already seems to have a good understanding about her stress triggers and how to deal with them in a healthy manner. At the end of the session, I was glad to see that Lakshmi was confident about her interpersonal skills. We also discussed time management techniques and our experiences regarding methods we use. I applaud the effort taken by FFE to connect students to mentors, who in turn can help mentees achieve their goals."*

Maya Ramachandran (FFE Mentor)  
System Validation Engineer  
Intel India Pvt Ltd

*"I enjoyed the mentoring program a lot, as most of the sessions were conducted by my mentor, citing practical examples. She contributed to my overall development, by boosting my self-confidence. This program helped me*



*improve my interpersonal skills by teaching me to be confident while interacting with others. The sessions that helped me the most were - Problem Solving and Decision-Making sessions. I am now placed with Target Corporation, with an annual CTC of Rs 6,00,000. FFE's mentoring program is an ultimate guiding star for all scholars; Thank you FFE and my mentor".*

V. Lakshmi Prasanna (FFE Mentee)  
4th year engineering scholar  
National Institute of Technology, Calicut

### Skill Development Program

In its third year of implementation (FY 2019-20), the FFE Skills Training Program funded by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) is, off to a great start. Currently 3500 FFE scholars benefit from this training program throughout India.



Mr. Nat Malupillai's (Director, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation) recent post on FFE's partnership and program impact can be found [here](#).

The academic year started with the new cohort of 1348 second year Engineering completing their AMCAT Baseline tests. The results of this test helped direct 649 students into the English program (by Hello English) and 592 students enrolling into a second English training program (by Kings Learning). 909 third year Engineering scholars completed their Midline AMCAT test; based on their scores, 550 students qualified to undertake the Coursera program and 346 students were identified for additional English training - Hi-Touch English by eAge Tutors. Also, 1033 fourth year scholars have completed AMCAT Endline test.

FFE's medical scholars had expressed an interest and need for English training to better prepare them for their medical careers. FFE launched a pilot English training program through the vendor partner Kings Learning for 142 medical scholars (for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> year students). The results indicated that 55% of the scholars improved their English language.

From the 2019 graduating batch of 909 FFE's Engineering scholars, 654 (72%) students have gained employment while 156 (17%) students have opted to pursue their higher education.

### Trainee Testimonials



*"Enguru English program was a great platform for me to better my English language skills. What worked well was - since the entire course was app-based. I could do this program anywhere and at my convenience, using my cell phone.*

*With our current schedule, to enroll and to attend English speaking classes, would have been a challenge. The content was great and was presented in a very interesting manner. This program has made me more confident. Thank you FFE for supporting such an important learning program."*

Akash Maheshwari

Year III (Part 2), Sem 9

B J Medical College, Ahmedabad

*"I am thankful to FFE and Enguru for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the English training program. Most importantly, it gave me the confidence to speak without hesitation, as it improved my fluency in the language. I liked the concept of app-based learning, as it allowed me to learn at my own time and pace. I hope FFE will continue this program because it helps students gain confidence in English."*

Chandan A

Year III (Part 1), Sem 7

Government Medical College, Mysore



## III. FFE US Gala

FFE celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with the Silicon Valley Gala, on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019, in Palo Alto, California, USA. FFE's founders Dr. Prabhu and Mrs. Poonam Goel along with the FFE-Board, donors, volunteers and local supporters celebrated FFE's stupendous journey, accomplishments and impact during its silver jubilee Gala. The keynote speaker, Mr. Anand Kumar, Founder of Super 30, shared his journey and experiences with the audience and helped garner significant support and funds for FFE at the Gala.

## IV. Student Internships

Between May and July 2019, 10 FFE scholars completed an 8-week internship at TransUnion CIBIL, where they worked on different modules based on their core of study.

Also, 1 FFE scholar from NIT Trichy, currently pursuing his 4<sup>th</sup> year B.E, was selected to the seventh edition of IIT-Gandhinagar's Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP) at IIT-Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under the guidance of Ms. Joycee Mekie. The 8-week program aimed at building strong ties and partnerships between IIT Gandhinagar and other institutions, bringing students and faculty from top institutes across the country to participate in ongoing research projects and receive mentoring from the Institute's faculty.

FFE thanks TransUnion CIBIL and IIT-Gandhinagar for their continued support to FFE scholars and for giving them this opportunity.

### Here is what few of the scholars had to say regarding their internship experience:

*"The internship experience gained at TransUnion CIBIL was excellent – from the work environment to the people, it was a truly educative experience. 8 weeks of internship gave me a first-hand feel of the software industry. The people in my team were very helpful and friendly and this enabled me to adapt to my new surrounding very easily. Thank you, TransUnion CIBIL, for this once in a lifetime opportunity. I am so glad to have made good use of my vacation."*

Kalaiyarisi S, 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Tech,

Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai

*"I had a wonderful learning experience interning at TransUnion CIBIL Ltd. I worked with the Data Analytics team. The knowledge gained during my internship is helping me in my placements. I also got good exposure to the IT industry. Thank you to FFE and TransUnion -CIBIL for this great opportunity."*

Ankit Tiwari, 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Tech,

Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune



*“In July this year, I had the opportunity to intern at TransUnion-CIBIL, Chennai. I thoroughly enjoyed my stint and it gave me a chance to practice a lot of what I had learnt until now in college. I enjoyed the work environment and learning from the teams with whom I interacted. I would like to thank all at TransUnion CIBIL Ltd and FFE for giving me this opportunity. This has truly been a great learning experience for me.”*

Mantu Nagappa Channapur, 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Tech,  
PES Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

*“The summer internship at IIT Gandhinagar gave me a glimpse of research life. Presentations & group discussions helped improve my communication skills. I also attended meetings and tech talks where I had the privilege of meeting working professionals. This helped me network. Overall, I am immensely satisfied with my internship and couldn’t have spent a better summer. Thank you IIT Gandhinagar and FFE, for giving me this opportunity.”*

B Soumith Reddy, 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Tech,  
NIT Trichy

## V. New Corporate Donor



Mr. Anirban Bhattacharya – CEO, Carl Bechem Lubricants India Private Ltd. presenting their first scholarship cheque to Ms. Thiruppavai K, Senior Manager – Donor Relations, FFE India Trust.

Carl Bechem Lubricants India Private Limited, FFE’s new sponsor is funding the scholarships of 50 students (25 Medical and 25 Engineering scholars). Carl Bechem’s leadership team presented the first cheque to Foundation For Excellence India Trust on 23rd September 2019, at their office in Bidadi, Karnataka.

## VI. Corporate Workshops

### CAF - Oracle Workshop

FFE participated in ‘CONNECT 2019’ a workshop, held on 9th July 2019 in Bangalore, by Charities Aid Foundation for NGO grantees of Oracle. The workshop addressed ideas for capacity building



Participants at the CAF – Oracle Workshop

goals, activities, challenges and concerns of Oracle grantees and ways to enhance the working relationship between Oracle and its grantees via CAF. This workshop provided an interactive platform for participant NGOs to address their concerns, seek clarification and an opportunity to learn from other participating grantees.

### Ingersoll Rand (IR) Workshop

Ingersoll Rand Technologies and Services Private Limited organized an interactive workshop on the corporate world of IR and their products on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 21 FFE scholars, supported by Ingersoll Rand, attended this workshop, conducted at their Bangalore office. The workshop also covered topics including transition from college to corporate life, tips on creating the right impression at job interviews followed by a role play on interview skills.

FFE is thankful to IR employees - Ms. Preethi Bhat, CoE-MFG Functional Support, Ms. Geetanjali Pillai, Specialist - Talent and Organizational capability Human Resource and Mr. Parmeswaran Narayanan, Director - Reliability and Testing Engineering, for their time and for sharing their experiences with FFE scholars.

## Voice of Scholars

### I. Current Scholar

Govind Bajpai  
B.E, 4<sup>th</sup> Year,  
National Institute of Technology (NIT),  
Uttarakhand



Govind hails from an agricultural family in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. He is always looking for opportunities to learn anything new. He is most inspired by the life of APJ Abdul Kalam. He is currently doing a six-month internship in Germany.



*“For the past few years my father has not been able to do much of field work due to his deteriorating health and therefore paying for my higher education was beyond his capacity. I consider myself extremely lucky for being granted FFE’s scholarship during the last 3 years of my study. It has helped me and my family cover my educational expenses to a great extent and focus on my career plans.*

*With FFE’s support I have achieved many milestones and hope to continue this in the future as well. I am putting my best foot forward and hope to return from Germany with flying colors.*

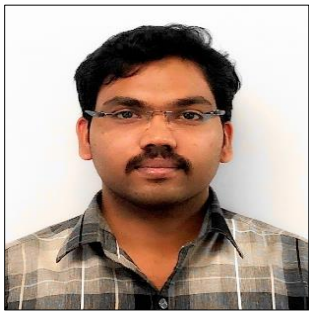
*Currently, I am doing a six-month research internship at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. This was made possible with additional financial help granted to me by my donors, The Hans Foundation.*

*I am passionate about learning new things and plan to open a technical institute where I can provide free education to deserving and needy students like myself.*

*With FFE’s support I have achieved many milestones and hope to continue this in the future as well. I am putting my best foot forward and hope to return from Germany with flying colors. Once again thank you very much for being with me.”*

**II. Alumnus**

Nikhil Sherigar  
Bengaluru, Karnataka



FFE Alumnus Nikhil Sherigar is a Senior Design Engineer at QuEST GLOBAL, Bengaluru. He graduated in 2014 from B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology, Hubli (now KLE Technological University).

*“I still remember my parents thinking about my higher education with their limited financial plans. The path of pursuing Engineering seemed to be closed for me. I had successfully completed my Pre-University College and had a good Engineering rank. I was granted FFE’s, I was able to focus completely on my course and curriculum and not worry about the fees.*

*I am now working at QuEST GLOBAL, Bengaluru as Project Leader, managing a team of 15 professionals. When I joined QuEST GLOBAL 5 years ago, I was shy and quiet. But that has since changed and today, all thanks to the trainings and learnings I’ve had since then, I am more confident as a leader. I have also*

*helped the upcoming engineers learn and make them aware about the needs of the market.*

*I believe that FFE alumni can help and make a huge difference in the lives of scholars. I sincerely urge my fellow alumni to come forward and contribute towards helping FFE scholars.*

*It is my goal that no one should be denied education. I believe that FFE alumni can help and make a huge difference in the lives of scholars. I sincerely urge my fellow alumni to come forward and contribute towards helping FFE scholars.*

*I have always been and will be thankful to FFE for giving me the help and support and making me the person I am today.”*

**Volunteer Speak**

Mr. Hans Raj Garg  
Dhuri, Punjab

Mr. Hans Raj Garg has been associated with FFE as a Facilitator for nearly a decade. He has a Master’s degree in Economics from Punjab university and Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree from Himachal Pradesh University.



In 2003, he retired as a Deputy District Education Officer from Punjab Education Department. Ever since, Mr. Garg is actively involved in various voluntary activities. Through different forums, he is involved in providing free services, such as tuitions for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, computer training classes and tailoring training to girls from underprivileged families. He also helps facilitate free eye operation camps and organizes eye transplants for the poor.

*As a family, we are proud to be associated with FFE and are committed to helping underprivileged students*

Mr. Garg currently lives in Dhuri, Punjab with his wife Smt. Chambeli Devi who is a retired Head teacher from Punjab university. His younger son Mr. Mohinder Pal Garg is also a facilitator with FFE for the past 3 years. As a family, they are very proud to be associated with FFE and are committed to help as many underprivileged students as possible, from Punjab.

## Donor Feature

Mr. Rajiv Gupta,  
Secretary, AWOO Foundation

*“In the current volatile business scenarios and owing to the ever-changing demands of our role, it gets tough for us to find time to contribute to our society, over and above our official roles and responsibilities. A World of Opportunity (AWOO) Program holds a very special place in my heart, as it is something which enables me to give something back to the society, while on my job. Providing scholarships to deserving students not only benefits the individual, but the entire ecosystem around him/ her which makes this initiative fulfilling, both at a personal level and societal level. The Foundation (AWOO- a World of Opportunity Foundation) was registered as a charitable trust in 2011, and since then we have been able to transform the lives of 1,175 students. We now, have a 300+ strong AWOO alumni base working in organizations like Citibank, Capgemini, Ford, Schneider Electric, Mahindra, Godrej etc. which in itself is a testimony to the kind of impact, it has made over the years.*



*Foundation For Excellence (FFE) has been our trusted partner since long, and it has always delivered way above the commitments made, each time we have partnered with FFE. An unflinching passion for transparency and earnestness in action has been the bulwark of it's strengths in the field of enabling education through scholarships. We look forward to a long and a fruitful association with FFE.”*

## Employee Highlight

Priyanka Ramesh  
Executive – Alumni Relations



Priyanka joined FFE India Trust as an Executive – Alumni Relations, in December 2017. She is a part of the Alumni team, where she is actively involved in alumni fundraising, building the FFE Alumni database and engaging with the student and alumni community. Priyanka has also co-organized Open House events across the country.

A Banker by profession, Priyanka holds a Master’s degree in international business (MIB) and Bachelor’s degree in Commerce specializing in Finance from Mount Carmel College – Bangalore. She also holds a post-graduate diploma in Banking and Finance from Indian School of Business Management and a Diploma in Financial accounting from NIIT. Prior to working with FFE, Priyanka worked as a Relationship Manager (secured loans) with HDFC Bank.

Priyanka is a voracious reader and loves travelling and exploring new places.

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