John and All,

Thank you so much for honoring me with the James R. O'Neil/W. Robert Powers Joint Scholarship, it will greatly assist as I complete my Masters in Fire Protection Engineering and transition into the Ph.D. program at WPI. Thank you also for your very kind words of encouragement.

I am very happy to be continuing my research work with partners Kidde Fenwal inc. on clean agent suppression systems. I submitted a paper for the 10th International Seminar on Fire and Explosion Hazards in January titled *Effects of Inert Gas Discharge Time on Class A Test Articles* which addresses recent NFPA 2001 changes to inert gas discharge periods. The paper is based on my master's work and the discharge time of inert gasses which includes a novel reduced-scale testing enclosure based on the UL 2127 and FM 5600 extinguishing test methodology.

My Master's thesis is currently pending revisions, but I have started the next experimental steps for my 3-year research program. I will be continuing my research on inert gas system testing with a focus on characterizing the test conditions within the testing enclosure and adding to the knowledge base of how inert gas systems can best extinguish different types of fires.

I have moved into a quasi-advisor status with the SFPE student chapter at WPI as their treasurer. I am working to get the organization a yearly budget through the school that will support bi-annual demonstration burns (a dorm room and a Christmas tree). I still serve in the MA National Guard as an Engineering Officer. I was most recently called up for a 6-week active-duty rotation in support of coordinating student transit to and from MA public schools. I also volunteered to help lead the Massachusetts Search and Extraction team as part of the National Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear response force.

Very Respectfully,

Jon Zimak