

Focused on the future workforce

It is hugely important for companies to support CEF and encourage STEM education

This issue, CEF is honored to present an interview with Edward Polen, President and CEO of EMCO, as he discusses why it has been vital to his company and his mission to support CEF over the years.

By encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at a younger age, the chemical industry will benefit from their passion and innovation in the decades to come. Thank you, Edward, and everyone at EMCO.

Q Why has it been important to you personally, and for your company, to support CEF all these years?



EDWARD POLEN
EMCO

EMCO CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

A My dad was a pharmacist and owned a drug store in Boston, Massachusetts. As a child growing up in this atmosphere, my dad taught me what pharmaceuticals were and how they were made. Little by little, I realized the importance of chemicals in pharmaceuticals, and all the inventions of the day including plastics, performance fabrics, cars, televisions, and even space travel. Chemicals touch every part of our lives and the society that we live in, and I believe it is important to help others learn that at a young age, like I did.

Q Why do you think it's essential for the chemical industry to help young students stay interested in science?

A Science is the future of mankind. We look at all the advancements in human life, and science is the driving factor behind all of it. Young people today need to be educated and engaged in science to continue the development and growth of mankind. Our industry relies on developing and employing future scientists.

Q How do you see your support of CEF as beneficial to your company, and the chemical industry, in the future?



A Keeping young people educated in chemicals and science will hopefully encourage them to pursue career opportunities in the chemical industry, including EMCO, or at least understand the importance of chemicals in all aspects of life.

Q What is it about the Challenge that keeps you engaged and excited about the future workforce?

A If as a society we have expectations of new developments in the future, we need to engage students to think about chemicals and chemistry. *The You Be The Chemist Challenge*® offers teachers an educational learning tool to integrate these concepts into the classroom. It's amazing to see how students learn and problem solve

topics such as sustainability, and exciting to see young students apply higher level thinking to these challenges.

Q As a Distributor Member of ACD, how has being a member of CEF's President's Club contributed to your company's fulfillment of ACD's Responsible Distribution Code VI: Sustainability?

A Supporting CEF is a magnificent means to support our industry's future and our community. EMCO prides itself on being a socially responsible corporation, and our contributions to CEF aid in meeting the requirements of Code 6A by engaging with organizations that interact with the public on behalf of the industry.