



ESAB's Soldex Introduces Mario Brescia Scholarship and names first recipient



Erick Farfán Aréstegui, left, accepts award from Pedro Brescia Moreyra, center, and Jorge Merzthal Toranzo, right

Earlier this year, ESAB's Soldex business introduced the Mario Brescia Scholarship in honor of Mario Brescia Cafferata, the late Chairman of Grupo Breca, Soldex's former parent company. Founded in 1960, Soldex is the leading provider of welding products in Peru; renowned for its customer service and highly regarded professional education center, Centro Tecnológico de Soldadura ("CTSol"), which has trained approximately a third of the country's welders. This award supports the development of Peruvian society by providing welding training to disadvantaged young people, enabling them to improve their and their families' lives. Mitchell Rales, Chairman of Colfax Corporation, commented on the creation of the scholarship, "Don Mario was a remarkable man, and we are honored to be able to pay tribute to his legacy in this small way." The scholarship will cover tuition of a one year welding training program at CTSol, as well as a monthly stipend for food, family support, transportation and medical costs.

During a small ceremony (pictured above) held on February 5th 2014 at the CTSol in Lima, Peru, the first Mario Brescia Scholarship was presented to Erick Farfán Aréstegui. In attendance to present the award were Pedro Brescia Moreyra, son of the late Mr. Brescia and Director of Grupo Breca, and Jorge Merzthal Toranzo, General Manager of Soldex.

Mr. Aréstegui exemplifies the qualities epitomized by Mario Brescia. Despite disadvantages in his family background, a single parent household with financial difficulties, he placed a strong emphasis on bettering himself through hard work and education. With the support of his mother and La Asociación Cultural Johannes Gutenberg, Mr. Aréstegui completed high school, obtaining a technical specialization in welding and recognition from the school as the best welder. He hopes to develop a career in welding with the

support of the Mario Brescia Scholarship. “This is an award that will change the life of someone in need, and we look forward to supporting Erick’s growth” said Mr. Rales.

The Mario Brescia Scholarship is needs based. To be eligible, an individual must have completed high school and be between 17 and 19 years old. Additionally, individuals must have the support of their families and reflect the values of hard work, discipline, commitment to learning, and personal integrity as epitomized by Mr. Brescia. Currently, Soldex is focusing on students at two schools, La Asociación Cultural Johannes Gutenberg and Colegios Fé y Alegría. With the support of the Colfax Corporation, Soldex looks forward to expanding the program and offering more opportunity to future welders and families in Peru.