Dr. M. Keith Humble served as Director of the Vocational Technical Institute from 1955 to 1971. In working with VTI Dean Simon, their goal was to grow and expand the reach of what VTI was accomplishing both in the US and abroad.

From 1961 to 1965, Dr. Humble led a SIU and US State Department vocational education mission to South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam). There, Dr. Humble served as head of the Phu Tho Technical Institute near Saigon. He was joined in this mission by L. D. Wiley, Chair of SIU Automotive.

Dr. Humble was proud of the work SIU Automotive accomplished in helping spearhead this initiative.

SIU Automotive was in the VTI Division of Applied Technologies at this time and he wanted to recognize and support that group with the establishment of this endowment.