



Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2013

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund provided environmental science and engineering scholarships to 21 university students in 2013 to encourage them to complete their degrees and enter professional practice in Ohio. The program is administered through a partnership between Ohio EPA and the Ohio Academy of Science.

According to Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally, "These awards encourage students to consider careers in environmental science and engineering. These fields not only offer many job opportunities, but are critical for training in advanced environmental technologies, advancing Ohio's technical expertise and building Ohio's future economy."

Students in four-year programs who received a \$2,500 scholarship for 2013 include:

- Christin Anderson, Oberlin College (Biology and Environmental Studies), Anchorage, AK
- Rachel Bellis, Baldwin-Wallace University (Biology), Brecksville, OH
- Maura Brett-Eiger, Hiram College (Environmental Studies), Shaker Heights, OH
- Jacob Cochran, Heidelberg University (Environmental Science), West Jefferson, OH
- Douglas Fox, Cedarville University (Environmental Science), Tiffin, OH
- Janelle Horstman, Bowling Green State University (Environmental Science), Cloverdale, OH
- Michelle Hummel, Case Western Reserve University (Civil Engineering), Canton, OH
- Dan Johnson, University of Toledo (Civil Engineering), Bowling Green, OH
- Amanda Kriner, Ashland University (Environmental Science and Biology), Medina, OH
- Cassandra Nix, Ashland University (Environmental Science/Biology/Toxicology), Elyria, OH
- Gabriella Patarini, Ohio Northern University (Civil Engineering), Elyria, OH
- Mitchell Ramsey, Ashland University (Environmental Science/Geology), Bucyrus, OH

- Lauren Shewhart, University of Dayton (Biology), Spring Valley, OH
- Sara Starr, Bowling Green State University (Environmental Science), Perrysburg, OH
- Kelly Sullivan, Ashland University (Environmental Science and Biology), Ashland, OH
- Aimee Weidner, Bowling Green State University (Environmental Science), Graytown, OH
- Zack Weilnau, Ashland University (Biology/Environmental Science), Willard, OH
- Casey White, Urbana University (Math and Science Education), Bellefontaine, OH

Also receiving a \$1,000 scholarship for 2013 was:

- Erika Brandt, Oberlin College (Biology and Environmental Studies), Knoxville, TN

Two students in a two-year program who received a \$1,250 scholarship for 2013 was:

- Michael Metheney, Stark State College (Environmental Health and Safety Technology), North Canton, OH
- Michael Yearms, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College (Environmental Engineering), West Chester, OH

This year's student recipients have research and work experience in areas such as:

- mercury binding in forest soils;
- flood control infrastructure;
- aquatic and riparian stream monitoring;
- global climatology for dry thunderstorms as a warning for wildfires;
- emergency preparedness for airborne releases of hazardous chemicals at critical infrastructure;
- release of estrogen compounds from waste water treatment plants;
- toxicology of saline deicing agents on aquatic organisms;
- performance of an experimental restored wetland;
- avian populations on the Lake Erie islands;
- amphibian populations in the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge;
- diet and hibernation sites of Ohio bats;
- effect of amphibian chytrid fungus on salamanders in Ohio;
- environmental toxicology and food consumption of snails and grasses in marshes;
- reducing water use and increasing the use of native plants in landscape design;
- invasive species in national parks;
- impact of invasive honeysuckle on mosquito populations;
- eliminating invasive plants and replanting prairie grasses;
- improving the effectiveness of storm water infrastructure to reduce nutrient loadings to rivers;
- life cycle analysis of photovoltaic and alternative solar cell materials
- electronics recycling;
- travel efficiency in urban areas to reduce air pollution; and

- campus sustainability initiatives to reduce energy consumption and increase recycling and composting.

Students are selected to receive scholarships based on an academic record with at least an overall GPA of 3.0; original research, scholarship, employment, volunteering, or other unique contributions to environmental science or environmental engineering; activity in non-athletic extra-curricular activities and organizations; ability to communicate; recommendations from education and environmental professionals; and a major in environmental science or environmental engineering.

Since the program began in 2000, \$643,700 in scholarships have been awarded statewide to 262 students at 47 Ohio colleges and universities.
