



Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2013

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund provided environmental science and engineering scholarships to 14 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
- Jacob Cochran, Heidelberg University (Environmental Science), West Jefferson, OH
- Douglas Fox, Cedarville University (Environmental Science), Tiffin, OH
- Michelle Hummel, Case Western Reserve University (Civil Engineering), Canton, OH
- Amanda Kriner, Ashland University (Environmental Science and Biology), Medina, OH
- Cassandra Nix, Ashland University (Environmental Science/Biology/Toxicology) Elyria, OH
- Mitchell Ramsey, Ashland University (Environmental Science/Geology), Bucyrus, OH
- Lauren Shewhart, University of Dayton (Biology), Spring Valley, 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

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

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

A student 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

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

- mercury binding in forest soils;
- flood control infrastructure;
- bio-assessment of Ohio streams;
- global climatology for dry thunderstorms as a warning for wildfires;
- impact of invasive honeysuckle on mosquito populations;
- 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;
- invasive species in national parks;
- environmental toxicology and food consumption of snails and grasses in marshes; and
- reducing water use and increasing the use of native plants in landscape design.

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, \$627,450 in scholarships have been awarded statewide to 255 students at 47 Ohio colleges and universities.