



## News Release

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### Colorado Engineering Council Awards \$41,000 in Scholarships to Advance Education of Engineering Students

DENVER (April 21, 2015) - A strong desire to make a positive difference and an authentic passion for math and science were common comments shared by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC Colorado) collegiate scholarship recipients at an award reception held at Lakewood County Club April 2, 2015.

“ACEC Colorado presented \$41,000 in scholarships to high school and college students, which is the largest amount awarded since the program’s inception in 1982,” said Peter Monroe, P.E., president, ACEC Colorado. “The Council awards scholarships to outstanding college students pursuing degrees in engineering at Colorado schools with engineering programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology.”

The Council’s 13 higher education recipients were selected from a field of 26 applicants based on their academic records, involvement in student chapters of professional organizations and community service.

Significant support is provided to the students through memorial scholarships created in honor of outstanding engineers. **Eric Garza**, mechanical and petroleum engineering student at Colorado School of Mines, received the \$6,000 Leonard Rice Memorial Scholarship, which was established in honor of Lee Rice of Leonard Rice Engineers. **Joseph Verissimo**, civil engineering student at Colorado School of Mines, received the Council’s \$5,000 William Russell Stoneman Scholarship, made possible through an endowment given by Mrs. William Russell Stoneman. Garza and Verissimo will also compete for scholarship funding through ACEC National’s scholarship competition. **Michael Chifala**, civil engineering student at the University of Colorado Boulder, was awarded the \$4,000 Fu Hua Chen Scholarship, which was established by ACEC Colorado’s Board of Directors to honor Fu Hua Chen for this lifetime achievement.

The new Sandy Donnel Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding community service by an engineering student, was established by past presidents of ACEC Colorado in honor of Donnel who was a strong proponent of giving back to the community and retired from ACEC Colorado in 2006 after serving as its executive director for 25 years. The inaugural recipient of the \$2,000 scholarship is **Kathryn Sommer Falkenstine**, electrical engineering student at the University of Denver, who has been involved in local and international humanitarian efforts through “The Invictus Initiative” that coordinates and utilizes humanitarian resources to help the most disadvantaged individuals and communities live fulfilling and empowered lives. Falkenstine spent a month in Kenya in 2014, which was a life changing experience.

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Additionally, ACEC Colorado awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to **Danielle Fox**, engineering with a mechatronics specialization at the Colorado State University (CSU) at Pueblo. Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 were awarded to **Jonathan Cheek**, mechanical engineering, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; **Dionysi Damaskopoulous**, mechanical and electrical engineering, Colorado School of Mines; **Jared Espinoza**, engineering with mechatronics specialization, CSU at Pueblo; **Dane Hyer-Peterson**, metallurgy and materials engineering, Colorado School of Mines; **Patrick Ogilvie**, mechanical engineering, Colorado School of Mines; **Stephanie Panza**, environmental engineering, Colorado School of Mines; and **Tegan Walsh**, chemical and biological engineering and biomedical engineering, CSU.

In partnership with the American Public Works Association, the \$2,500 Jack Bruce Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Chaz Myers**, civil engineering student, CSU.

The scholarship recipients were selected by ACEC Colorado's Scholarship Committee including Jeff Kobriger, P.E., committee chair, HCDA Engineering; Les Botham, P.E., Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc.; Brad Foos, FFG Retirement Counseling; Jeremy Musson, Pinyon Environmental, Inc.; Dixie Shear, Jefferson County Dept. of Highways & Transportation; Chris Strawn, P.E., Jansen Strawn Consulting Engineers; Chris Tepen, P.E., Hartwig & Associates, Inc.; Bryant Walters, P.E., Collins Engineers, Inc.; and Julie Ann Dill, ACEC Colorado.

"Our scholarship program also supports high school students through Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program and Colorado's annual High School Bridge Building Contest. We are grateful to our members and the member firms who support the scholarship fund, which promotes educational skills essential to our profession, supports outstanding students and is an investment in the future of engineering," Monroe added.

The scholarships provided by ACEC Colorado included a \$1,000 scholarship to Colorado MESA; a \$1,000 scholarship to **Benjamin Jakeman**, Cheyenne Mountain High School, southern Colorado winner of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Contest, sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Society of Professional Engineers of Colorado and ACEC Colorado; and \$2,500 in scholarships to the ACE Mentor program.

ACEC Colorado's Scholarship Fund is supported by funds raised through its annual golf tournament and contributions from Council members. The 2015 golf tournament will take place on Aug. 3, 2015, at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen, Colo. For more information, visit [acec-co.org](http://acec-co.org).

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#### **About ACEC Colorado**

*ACEC Colorado ([www.acec-co.org](http://www.acec-co.org)) is the business association of 220 member firms employing more than 10,000 employees in the independent private practice of consulting engineering. The organization is a primary resource for accessing engineering information, expertise and business ethics practices. ACEC Colorado provides leadership and direction by developing practical, feasible options and solutions based upon technical collaboration to achieve enduring outcomes to benefit society.*

**Editor's Note:** Attached for use is a photo (ACECCO2015Scholars.jpg) of the scholarship recipients with the suggested caption: ACEC Colorado honored its 2015 scholarship recipients during a reception held at Lakewood Country Club. (l-r) Eric Garza, Chaz Myers, Tegan Walsh, Jared Espinoza, Patrick Ogilvie, Kathryn Sommer Falkenstine, Jonathan Cheek, Stephanie Panza, Joseph Verissimo, Danielle Fox, Dane Hyer-Peterson and Michael Chifala.

Also attached is photo (DonnelACECcoScholar.jpg) with the suggested caption: Peter Monroe, P.E., president of ACEC Colorado, congratulates Kathryn Sommer Falkenstine, electrical engineering student at

the University of Denver and recipient of the Council's inaugural Sandy Donnel Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding community service.)