ACEC Colorado Announces New Foundation to Support Scholarships and Education for Colorado College and High School Students
by Jeff Kobrige, PE

Earlier this year, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC Colorado) established a new charitable, 501(c)3 organization, the ACEC Colorado Scholarship & Education Foundation.

The foundation’s primary mission is to provide financial support through tuition scholarships to full-time Colorado college students entering their junior and senior academic years while pursuing bachelor’s degrees in Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)-approved engineering and surveying programs in Colorado. In July, the foundation awarded $40,500 to 14 college students from eight different universities that met these criteria. These students’ achievements were selected for recognition among the 50 applications received by the foundation. Special appreciation goes to my fellow ACEC Colorado Scholarship & Education Foundation board members, who with me donated time to review applications and interview finalists during the selection process: Les Botham (retired from Leonard Rice Engineers); Steve Hibbler, PE (Muller Engineering); Chris Straw, PE (Ware Malcomb); Chris Tepen, PE (Stanley Consultants); and Bryant Walters, PE (Collins Engineers). Dixie Shear, PE, also participated in the judging process as a representative of American Public Works Association Colorado.

Another important tenet for the ACEC Colorado Scholarship & Education Foundation includes providing additional support to organizations that promote math and science to high school students. This year, that included giving $2,500 to the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program and $2,000 to the Colorado Annual High School Bridge Building Contest, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Society of Professional Engineers of Colorado and ACEC Colorado.

The foundation is also exploring additional program opportunities that could support consulting engineering education in the state.

The foundation is supported by funds raised through its annual golf tournament (held the first Monday every August), as well as corporate and individual contributions. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law under Internal Revenue Code Section 170. Thanks to this year’s more than 50 ACEC Colorado member firms that collectively contributed $5,700 in corporate and individual support this past year, as well as the approximately 20 sponsors and 100 players who helped raise $10,000 in proceeds during the 2018 golf tournament, held Aug. 6 at Colorado National Golf Club (Erie).

For more information about supporting the foundation or applying for a scholarship, please contact the ACEC Colorado office at email@acec-co.org or 303-832-2200. Scholarship criteria and forms are also available online at www.acec-co.org.