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**SIXTEEN NEW YORK STATE ENGINEERING STUDENTS AWARDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES OF NEW YORK**

**NEW YORK, May 13** -- Now more than ever – given rising tuition costs and a tight economy – academic scholarships to high-achieving students entering the engineering field play an important support role for the recipients. This year, 16 students in New York State colleges and universities will receive American Council of Engineering Companies of New York scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

The scholarships are being awarded based on the student's cumulative grade point average, college activities, work experience and an essay on consulting engineering. Eight of the students attending metropolitan area colleges will be honored at an ACEC New York membership luncheon on May 19 at the Union League Club in New York City. The remaining eight students attending upstate colleges will be recognized at the council's winter conference in Albany in January. All will receive their scholarship checks in May.

Since 2001, ACEC New York has awarded 97 scholarships for a total of \$265,500.

Following are the scholarship winners for 2009:

**Jaros, Baum & Bolles Scholarship - \$5,000**

- *Grace Lee, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.*  
Grace is a civil engineering student with a concentration in structural engineering and a minor in architecture in Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. She has worked as an intern for engineering firms in New York and Rhode Island, her home state, and is active in university activities as vice president of the student chapter of ASCE, as a member of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association, and as a member of the university's wind ensemble. She has been the recipient of scholarships every year since her freshman year.

**Walter Brown, P.E. Scholarship - \$5,000**

- *Rachel Smith, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.*  
Taking one step at a time, Rachel plans to work toward a master's degree in structural engineering after she gets her undergraduate degree in civil engineering next spring. Involved in numerous student organizations and sports activities at Rensselaer Polytechnic, Rachel has also found the time every semester since her freshman year to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, as well as other community outreach programs through her membership in Alpha Gamma

Delta Sorority. During her summers, she has worked for engineering firms in her home state of Massachusetts. She hopes to live and work in New York City in the future.

#### **AECOM Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Jacob Deyo**, *Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.*  
Jacob is working toward a civil engineering technology degree that will allow him entry into several areas of engineering that require creative solutions. He has already helped to design the waste water equalization system for the Hero Beech-Nut facility in Amsterdam, N.Y. His penchant for problem-solving has been nurtured through summer jobs at engineering and construction companies. He is also a regular at Rochester Local Zoning Board meetings, where he no doubt exercises his reputation for asking tough questions that elicit explanations devoid of jargon. He is described by one professor as someone who can handle anything thrown his way.

#### **Dagher Engineering, PLLC Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Alexandra Guernon**, *Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.*  
Although her eyes are set on a degree in mechanical engineering, Alexandra readily admits a strong interest in bioengineering as well, and would like to attend graduate school for that discipline so that she might one day be a consultant in both the mechanical and biomedical fields. Her student activities include the Scholars Program, Scholarship Chair of Gamma Phi Beta and President of the Society of Women Engineers. Her community involvements include Co-Director of America Reads and a week's work in New Orleans in December 2006 for Habitat for Humanity.

#### **HAKS Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors, P.C. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Edwin Cox, Jr.**, *Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.*  
Edwin is a young man who already knows what he want to do with his life and has set goals to take himself to that place. A civil engineering technology major, he wants to fast track to an MBA degree with a concentration in Enterprising so that he may own his own consulting engineering firm in the future. He is also learning American Sign Language (ASL). He is a member of ASCE, the Outing Club and has done work for Habitat for Humanity. During summer vacations, Edwin has worked for consulting engineering firms in New York and Vermont, his home state.

#### **Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Daniel Hesslein**, *Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.*  
Soon to be the recipient of a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Daniel is very interested in sustainable design, particularly as it pertains to renewable energy and reusable construction practices. Described as proactive and responsive in his college studies by his professors, Daniel also has a desire to improve the community in which he lives. He has participated in Night Run, where he makes and delivers sandwiches for the homeless, and participates in Relay for Life, a 24-

hour walk to raise awareness for breast cancer. Recipient of several scholarships in the past, Daniel has worked each summer for engineering firms, two of which are ACEC New York members.

**Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, P.C. Scholarship in memory of Maria Isabel Ramirez (9-11-01) - \$2,500**

- *Joey Araman, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.*  
Joey is pursuing both a BA and a BS degree in civil/structural engineering. One could say unequivocally and in the best sense that he is an overachiever, a poet as well as a budding engineer with a strong sense of the artistic as well as the technical aspects of engineering. As a member of the Society for Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation and the Columbia Engineering Student Council, Joey has spent much of his time at Columbia fostering the entrepreneurial spirit among engineering students. His community activities include mentoring underprivileged youths and working with high school students who aspire to be engineers, building playgrounds and other community projects.

**Mid Hudson Region Scholarship - \$2,500**

- *Jason Shaffer, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.*  
Highly praised by his professors and mentors, this future mechanical engineer is said by them to have the integrity and work ethic essential to be a professional engineer. During vacations and in his spare time, Jason has worked on several college research projects involving nano materials and micro-electrical systems. Having spent the first 18 years of his life in Eagle River, Alaska, Jason is a dedicated hockey player and a member of Union College's Men's Division I Ice Hockey Team. He has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

**Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers Scholarship - \$2,500**

- *Constantine Spanos, The City College of New York, New York, N.Y.*  
The protégé of Robert Paaswell, director of the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) and distinguished civil engineering professor at City College, Constantine is described by his professors as the best student in the 2010 class. Enrolled in the Macaulay Honors College University Scholars Program, he is interested in studying New York's transportation infrastructure and economic development along with the impact projects have on the natural environment. Constantine hopes to obtain a doctorate degree in civil engineering to conduct research and teach engineering and policy at the university level. He is president of Chi Epsilon and has served as vice president of CCNY's chapter of Engineers without Borders until January of last year.

**Parsons Brinckerhoff Scholarship - \$2,500**

- *Christopher LaPorta, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.*  
Christopher plans to use his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Technology to the benefit of a consulting engineering firm, with an eye to possible ownership of his own firm one day. To be a well-rounded engineer, he thinks it is also important to be knowledgeable in communications, business, economics and

politics. On his summer breaks, he has worked for the Monroe County Department of Transportation and for a consulting engineering firm in Rochester. A native of Rochester, he would like to remain in western New York and be a part of the revitalization of that region.

**Pennoni Engineering and Surveying of New York, LLC Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **George Kershaw, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.**  
George's discipline of choice is mechanical engineering. He has supplemented his studies with interesting summer jobs at Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, where he was in charge of 26 high school sophomores for six weeks, and did scientific research in hydro-gels at Conte Polymer Science Center at the University of Massachusetts. He also worked for Convergent Wealth Advisors, a wealth management company. At Union College, he is Vice President of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and a member of the Scholar's program. He is also captain of the varsity men's crew and is involved in intramural softball, broomball and squash.

**STV Group Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Christopher Yee, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.**  
Christopher is working toward his bachelor's degree in earth and environmental engineering in the Fu Foundation School of Engineering, a choice that he feels offers a more diverse range of engineering possibilities, combining chemical and mechanical aspects to solve environmental health, water contamination, climate change and energy problems. His summer positions have allowed him to do research on carbon dioxide capture for clean coal power plants, and to analyze government data from all 50 states to evaluate the waste management practices. Christopher's pastime enjoyment comes from running, skiing, soccer and swing dancing. Last year, he clocked 4:39:27 in the New York City Marathon.

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Anthony Vasile, The City College of New York, New York, N.Y.**  
It is often said that it's never too late to realize a dream. After more than a decade of working full- and part-time for construction companies in New York to earn the money to attend college, Anthony now wants to complete his studies for a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and begin working as a consulting engineer in New York State. He is a member of the Concrete Canoe Club and says the scholarship money will give him more time to research and test mixtures for the club and for his studies. He is also a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, the student chapter of ASCE and Chi Epsilon, and this semester has been researching the performance of mechanically stabilized earth walls as an independent study.

**Thornton Tomasetti Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Thomas Matarazzo, Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.**  
Honoring a tradition, Thomas will be the fourth member of his family, after his grandfather, uncle and brother, to earn an engineering degree from Manhattan

College. Active in several student organizations, including Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, the Jazz Band and the student chapter of ASCE, of which he was president in 2008, Thomas is also a member of Engineers without Borders. Known for his computer skills, this Old Bridge, N.J., junior is often called upon to trouble shoot computers for both faculty and students. This semester, Thomas is doing research in the structure laboratory on using Photostress to study the connection of metal structures and the failure of reinforced concrete beam.

**Weidlinger Associates, Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Jafar Haider**, *The City College of New York, New York, N.Y.*  
Jafar is an excellent student, an enthusiastic volunteer and, when possible, a worker. In April 2008, Jafar volunteered with other City College students to travel to New Orleans to work on the homes of Hurricane Katrina victims. As a member of Engineers without Borders, he traveled last August to Honduras to work with villagers to find clean water for their homes. He belongs to the student chapter of ASCE and Chi Epsilon and works part-time as a SAT tutor. He has also worked every summer for a Brooklyn construction firm. He would like someday to have his own consulting engineering firm.

**Western Region Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Nicholas French**, *Alfred State, Alfred, N.Y.*  
Nicholas' cumulative average of 3.91 puts him at the head of his bachelor's program in Surveying Engineering Technology. He is on the Alfred State Student Senate Executive Board and treasurer of the Surveying Club. He has worked for Parrone Engineering in East Rochester and for two landscape contractors in Webster, N.Y. His volunteer activities include coaching the Penfield Youth Lacrosse Clinic and peer tutoring of calculus, physics and surveying at Alfred State. Because he loves the outdoors and New York State is his home, Nicholas wants to be a part of future effort to keep New York State as beautiful as it has always been.

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*Founded in 1921, American Council of Engineering Companies of New York is one of the oldest organizations of professional consulting engineering firms in the U.S. A statewide association, its members represent all major engineering disciplines and range from highly specialized solo practitioners to multidiscipline firms employing thousands with branch offices worldwide. For additional information about ACEC New York, log on [www.acecny.org](http://www.acecny.org).*