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**ACEC NEW YORK AWARDS 17 SCHOLARSHIPS
TO ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN NEW YORK STATE COLLEGES**

NEW YORK, May 21, 2010 -- Seventeen high-achieving engineering students attending New York State colleges and universities will receive \$45,000 collectively in scholarship money from member firms of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York. The individual scholarship awards range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. They are awarded based on the students' cumulative grade-point average, college activities, work experience and an essay on consulting engineering. Including this year's recipients, ACEC New York has awarded 114 scholarships totaling \$310,500 since the program's first statewide awards in the spring of 2002.

The students attending metropolitan area colleges will be honored at ACEC New York's membership luncheon on May 25 at the Union League Club. Students attending upstate colleges will be recognized at the council's winter conference in Albany on January 30. All will receive their scholarship checks in May.

One of the students, Patrick VanHaverbeke, was honored earlier in March with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey scholarship at the council's annual Engineering Excellence Awards gala at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. His \$5,000 scholarship was a new ACEC New York initiative awarded in the name of a public agency in recognition of the agency's achievements and its pursuit of excellence in design.

Following are the 2010 scholarship winners:

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Scholarship - \$5,000

- ***Patrick VanHaverbeke, Alfred State College, Alfred, N.Y.***
By any measure, Patrick is extremely talented, hard-working, resourceful and creative. Not only does he excel in Land Surveying Engineering Technology, his passion, he is also a gifted writer, having contributed several feature articles to *Ergo*, Alfred State's creative arts magazine. He has had extensive work experience with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, has pursued and won ten scholarships and five awards, including the prestigious U.S. Dept. of the Interior STAR award, and has managed a 3.93 GPA, while commuting to Alfred State and being a full-time husband and father to three children.

AECOM Scholarship - \$2,500

- ***Lauren Brown, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.***
A mechanical engineering major, Lauren has proven to be adventurous as well as a socially conscious student. From September to December of 2009, she lived in

Vietnam, working for the Vietnam Green Building Council. Earlier that year, she also worked in the Union College Aerogel Lab, researching fabrication methods and properties of silica and titania aerogels and their applications. On campus, she has been involved in numerous activities, including sophomore and junior president of the Multifaith Council, junior president of the Campus Protestant Ministries, tour guide in the Gatekeeper Honorary Society, orientation advisor, and sophomore treasurer of Engineers without Borders.

Dagher Engineering, PLLC Scholarship - \$2,500

- ***Zeeshan Mughal, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.***
Zeeshan is a computer engineering major with a special interest in embedded systems design, a field he first became acquainted with while serving his first internship at EEG Enterprises, Inc. in 2008. He is president of the campus Computer Engineering Society, was vice president of the student chapter of IEEE and a database developer for Stony Brook's campus residences. He has also been a staff writer and web editor for the *Stony Brook Statesman*. He is described by his advisor as mature, has great work ethic, and is always striving to better himself.

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

- ***Edward Gliss, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.***
Edward plans on becoming a mechanical engineer and would be very happy to live and work in New York State. He has put his engineering skills to work for Toyota in Erlanger, Ky. and for Sealing Devices, Inc. in Lancaster, N.Y., giving him a first-hand look at working for both a large corporation and a small company. He is currently associate project manager for the RIT Formula SAE team and was composites project manager for the group for one year. He has also been a United Way Food Bank volunteer.

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

- ***Anthony Blatner, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.***
Hard-driving Anthony is pursuing a dual BS/MS degree in computer engineering, which he hopes to obtain in May 2011. Despite the heavy workload, Anthony has found the time to serve on the Student Advisory Board of RIT's Leadership Institute, has been president of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, has volunteered at the on-campus day care center and has participated in intramural football and softball. His practical work experience includes eight months work in the IBM Innovation Lab at RIT and a summer internship at Moog Inc., a firm involved in aircraft/military engineering work.

Jaros, Baum & Bolles Scholarship - \$2,500

- ***James Maniscalco, Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.***
This future civil engineer was attracted to engineering as a child. He also has strong people skills, which he has put to work over the years by volunteering his time and efforts to preparing and serving food to the homeless, attending to Alzheimer patients at a Long Island nursing home and participating in Manhattan

College programs that involve food sales for charity. He has spent two summers gaining practical experience in the construction industry working for the New York State DOT and for Posillico Construction Co. on Long Island.

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

- **Robert Wasp**, *Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.*
The son of a civil engineer, Robert is hoping for a career in design and construction like his father, whose enthusiasm for his profession impressed his son at an early age. Over time, Robert has won six scholarships, including the ASHE, SAME and the Presidential Scholarship from SUNY, Albany. He has worked for Woodard and Curran Engineering, Sites Remediation & Technologies and HDR Engineering as an intern and engineering assistant. But engineering isn't Robert's only interest. He has been involved in community emergency services for the past five years as an interior firefighter in the Croton Falls Fire Department and as crew chief with the North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

Mid Hudson Region Scholarship - \$2,500

- **Keith Werner**, *Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.*
Keith is described by his faculty evaluator as one of Manhattan College's brightest students. A member of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the New York Water Environment Association, he is also active in intramural volleyball and basketball. He has worked for the Gianfia Corp. in White Plains, where he read architectural plans and assisted with determining correct bid amounts. He has been the recipient of five scholarship awards, including both the Manhattan College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Presidential Scholarship.

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers Scholarship - \$2,500

- **Laura Bendernagel**, *Columbia University, New York, N.Y.*
Laura's interests lay in environmental issues and challenges, but do not end there. She is also interested in ecosystems and geothermal energy. Her work experience includes positions in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories, the Cary Institute in Millbrook, N.Y., combustion research in the Columbia University Earth and Environmental Department and at Mohonk Preserve in Gardiner, N.Y., where she did independent research on ecosystems at risk from earthworm species. On campus, she is president of the multicultural Hapa Club, is co-concert master of the university's orchestra, is activities coordinator of the food sustainability project and a member of the Society of Women Engineers.

Parsons Brinckerhoff Scholarship - \$2,500

- **Ivan Pang**, *Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.*
Ivan plans on a career in computer engineering in what he describes as a modern technology company before pursuing a career in consulting engineering. On campus, he is a member of Eta Kappa Nu, Tau Beta Pi and Golden Key honor societies, was president of the student chapter of IEEE, a member of the Stony

Brook University Robotics group and the Stony Brook Culinary Club. During his sophomore year, he worked for Netcom Information Technology in New York City, providing computer tech support.

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

- *Luke Scannell, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.*
Luke is pursuing a double major in civil and environmental engineering and once completed plans to get a Masters of Science degree in civil engineering. He would like to enter the field of environmental consulting, with an emphasis on environmental remediation work. He has worked for both AECOM and Earth Tech in Latham, N.Y., during his summer holidays, where he was given real opportunities to learn on the job, which has made him even more enthusiastic about his career choice. He has been captain of ASCE's concrete canoe team, is a member of Engineers without Borders and Engineers for a Sustainable World and is a member of the Capital Region Celtic Pipe & Drum Band.

STV Group Scholarship - \$2,500

- *Eglind Myftiu, The Cooper Union, New York, N.Y.*
AutoCAD captured Eglind's interest at the start of his engineering education. From his first project of using the software to design a dream house, to designing a campus for Cooper Union, which has none, Eglind got more involved and enjoyed the challenge. He now wants to design using AutoCAD once he enters the workplace armed with his mechanical engineering degree. His other interests include ballroom dancing, ping pong (he's president of both clubs on campus), pool, chess, handball, basketball and volleyball. He is also treasurer of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and takes salsa lessons in his spare time.

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

- *Beatriz Lima Ponce, The Cooper Union, New York, N.Y.*
This future mechanical engineer, with a special interest in HVAC engineering, is a well-rounded student, with many commitments to on-campus groups and activities. In addition to being a co-founder of the women's soccer and basketball teams, she is captain of the Step Team, treasurer of Engineers with Borders, and is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, ASME and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. She has also worked on the Advanced Vehicle Design Team and on an independent study project to design a hybrid electric vehicle controller. In addition to her Cooper Union Scholarship, she has been the recipient of four additional scholarships.

Syska Hennessy Group, Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500

- *Steven Montoni, Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.*
Steve's evaluator at Manhattan College has described him as simply brilliant, with a 3.98 GPA. In addition to being on the Mechanical Engineering Student Advisory Committee, he is treasurer of ASME on campus, a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Italian Club and AIAA. He is also active in several intramural sports, including football and soccer, and is an assistant coach for a Little League team in

Bellerose, N.Y. He is also an assistant CCD teacher at his church in Floral Park, and works in the college's Registrar's office. He looks forward to a career in consulting engineering and designing projects that qualify for LEED certification.

Thornton Tomasetti Scholarship - \$2,500

- **Matt Graham**, *Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.*

It wasn't until Matt attended a three-day career and job conference in Washington, D.C., that he was able to connect his interest in engineering with an elusive desire for direction -- a focus he had been seeking since entering college. On his journey to self discovery, he could not see how his engineering degree could help him satisfy his entrepreneurial spirit until he attended a workshop that featured an engineer who had launched an extremely successful consulting engineering company. Although he now has the focus he was seeking, it's worth noting that Matt has won a fellowship grant for chemistry and is the recipient of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute fellowship grant for research.

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

- **David Lin**, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.*

David is committed to a career in environmental engineering. In addition to his work on campus as a sustainable engineering teaching assistant and a calculus course facilitator, he has worked during the summer for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey as an environmental safety management intern and for the Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment as a process engineer intern. He is a member of the Chinese Bible Study group, a member of the Professor Susan Riha Research Group, and was the Information Technology Chair of the Hong Kong Student Association as well as the technical secretary of the AquaClara Project Team Outreach Club. A Dragonboat enthusiast, he has been on the Cornell Dragonboat Club since it started in 2008.

Western Region Scholarship -- \$2,500

- **Robert Jones**, *University of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.*

Robert has chosen mechanical engineering as his course of study as he has always been fascinated with how things work. He is a member of Pi Tau Sigma mechanical engineering honor society and was captain of the university's intramural soccer team from 2007-2009. Last summer, Robert was an intern at Stohl Environmental, LLC, where he was a project and air monitor, gaining experience in risk assessment, abatement design and project monitoring. After graduation in May 2011, he would like to pursue career opportunities in western New York State.

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.