

# 2015 Scholarship Winners



Since 1997 the Southern California Chapter of APWA has conducted a Scholarship Program benefitting students who live in or attend school in our region. Since its inception, APWA has awarded nearly \$300,000 in scholarships, with \$19,750 this years alone, allowing undergraduate college students who maintain a passion for community involvement and volunteerism, to continue to achieve their educational goals in majors related to the Public Works field. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2,000 per year with a four year total not to exceed \$5,000. To be eligible for an APWA Scholarship, students must major in a Public Works related field such as Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Technical Trade, etc...; plan to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in a community college, trade school, or university during the upcoming Fall semester/quarter; meet a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50; and commit to 4 volunteer hours to promote APWA and the Scholarship Program. Our members are very proud of our Scholars. They are bright, dedicated, and represent the future of the Public Works profession.

## Joel Villarreal



### Scholarship: \$500

Freshman, Computer Sciences, College of the Desert

Joel is a graduate of Desert Hot Springs High School. He will be attending College of the Desert this fall, then plans to transfer to a 4-year university and continue his studies. Joel has volunteered at his local church on several occasions by doing duties such as serving food and cleaning the area. On his free time, Joel enjoys listening to music or watching movies. His hobbies include collecting action figures and collecting books.

## Manuel Lopez



### Scholarship: \$500

Freshman, Computer Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

Manuel would like to pursue a corporate position as an engineer with technological companies such as Google or IBM. He is fascinated by daunting mathematics as well as the study of the physical structural components that make a mere computer. Manuel seeks to obtain the necessary tools to maintain and upgrade computer hardware. He is also a current member of the Boys and Girls Club of America, where he has committed valuable community service hours. His hobbies include, but are not limited to, hiking, weightlifting and crossword puzzles.

## Jose Perez

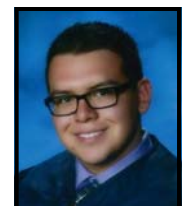


### Scholarship: \$500

Freshman, Civil Engineering, University of California, Irvine

Jose is a member of H.E.A.R.T. Program, Key Club, College Summit, Varsity Soccer and Track & Field teams. He was the captain of the soccer team for 2 years and co-captain for his sophomore year. He also participated in the MDA Summer Camp and interned at Kaiser Permanente where he worked in the Gastrointestinal Department. He enjoys helping the community as he has over 200 community service hours. His hobbies include drawing, playing soccer, and spending time with friends and family.

## Andrew Linares



### Scholarship: \$500

Freshman, Architecture, College of the Desert, Palm Desert

Andrew is a graduate of Desert Hot Springs High School. He plans to major in Architecture, for he wants to have a career as an architect. Although College of the Desert is a two-year community college, Andrew intends to transfer to a four-year university, when he has earned the necessary amount of credits to do so in order to acquire a bachelor's degree in architecture. Andrew was part of the California Scholarship Federation for a year during his sophomore year in high school; furthermore, Andrew has had some work experience in landscaping and hardscaping. Andrew enjoys drawing, reading, watching movies, and playing video games in his spare time.

## Emma Erikson



### Scholarship: \$500

*Freshman, Environmental Engineering, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

Emma recently graduated from Newport Harbor High School. At Newport Harbor, Emma was a student athlete and an artist as she played water polo and swam, was an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program candidate and was recognized county-wide for her artwork. Emma participated in volunteer work, was Vice President of National Honor Society, and was a peer mediator. She was also a part of the Mentor Program and her Civil Engineer mentor showed her the duties of an engineer. At Cal Poly SLO, Emma hopes to be an active member of Engineers Without Borders, study abroad, join a sorority, as well as join other engineering clubs. Eventually, Emma hopes to work with water treatment for the public sector at home or abroad.

## Emily Roberts



### Willdan Scholarship: \$750

*Freshman, Biology, San Diego State University*

Emily graduated last month as 13th in her class from Temecula Valley High School. She would like to pursue a career to assist in the protection of wildlife by providing innovative input into civil engineering projects to combine benefits for both the human and natural world. She was captain of her cheer team and member of the California Scholarship Federation. She is currently interning at Dokken Engineering. At her internship, she enjoys learning something new about engineering everyday as new problems and situations arise. Her hobbies include reading, playing piano, and shopping.

## Michael Simpson



### Scholarship: \$750

*Freshman, Civil Engineering, University of Dayton*

When Michael receiving this degree, Michael will look to work for the City of Compton, Los Angeles, or a private engineering firm. During his high school career, Michael was a leader/president of many organizations like the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Math Club, Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) club, Solar Cup, and Vex Robotics. Michael's hobbies include sports, investing, and volunteering. His favorite sport is basketball by far as he played varsity basketball for the past four years. Michael volunteers with People for Community Improvement center, Carson Community Center, the Compton Airport where he did SAT math tutoring, and the SEIU 721 Union. Lastly, Michael has picked up investing and online trading for the past 1.5 years. He is currently an active day trader now and looks to grow his financial account exponentially over the next decade. His lifelong goal is to become the NBA owner of the Los Angeles Lakers.

## Scott Bohannon



### Scholarship: \$750

*Sophomore, Heavy Equipment, Rio Hondo College*

Scott is a student at Rio Hondo College. He is studying to be a mechanic in the Heavy Equipment Program as well as in the Alternative Fuels Program. Scott has gained California certification in areas of Fire Mechanics by his training and involvement in the Fire Mechanics Academy for several years and is also a member of the Southern California Fire Mechanics Association. Scott would like to begin ASE certifications in his near future and possibly work for a local city or county.

## Matthew Lin



### Scholarship: \$750

*Sophomore, Computer Science, California State University, Los Angeles*

Matthew is an aspiring software engineering, specifically in artificial intelligence in the Internet of Things. He is currently serving as the Technology Chair at the Early Entrance Program Club, the student government for the unique student body of the Early Entrance Program (EEP) at CSULA. He is also involved with the Academic Honors Association, the Golden Key Honors Society, the Math Club, and the Biomedical Engineering Society, where he is part of a team developing a sensor-powered glove designed to help patients diagnosed with cerebral palsy regain hand movement. Outside of school, Matthew volunteers at his local senior center where he assists seniors with cataracts in their daily lives. In addition to being a passionate programmer, he also plays piano and the alto saxophone, and participates in swimming and cross country.

## David Ramirez Jr.



### Scholarship: \$750

*Sophomore, Civil Engineering, East Los Angeles College*

David has worked as a tutor for the past two years and also volunteers as a film crew member for the "El Monte Tonight" show. He is currently taking summer classes, Physics and Microstation, looking for engineering graphics design part time job and is getting ready to transfer to San Jose State University for the fall semester of 2015. Some of his hobbies include playing handball, writing short stories, volunteering for the "El Monte Tonight" show, sketching, and tutoring.

**Robert Vu**



**Scholarship: \$1,000**

*Senior, Civil Engineering, University of California, Irvine*

Robert currently interning at the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, Public Works Department as a consultant with Charles Abbott Associates. He enjoys seeing a project start as an idea and develop into a physical entity that is long-lasting and useful to society. Robert is an active member of the community. He spends his weekends volunteering as part of the St. Barbara Youth Ministry. He focuses on building the character of the youth as well as maintaining their faith. Robert's hobbies include backpacking, rock climbing, and gaming.

**Gilbert Roman Ramos**



**Scholarship: \$1,000**

*Senior, Civil Engineering, California Sate University, Long Beach*

Roman has aspirations to pursue a career in either Geotechnical Engineering or Water Resources. He is actively involved in the American Society of Civil Engineers Chapter (ASCE) at CSULB, where he has served as the Chapter's Secretary and Concrete Canoe Co-Captain. Roman is currently interning at the City of Huntington Beach, Public Works Department under the Urban Runoff Management Division. Roman has the opportunity to assist with water quality inspections and get real world experience at his internship. Roman has aspirations to travel and his hobbies include Jiu-Jitsu, surfing, and collecting rocks specimens.

**Joshua Lundblade**



**Scholarship: \$1,000**

*Senior, Civil Engineering, California Sate University, Los Angeles*

Joshua would like to pursue a career in either Environmental or Water Resource Engineering. He is an active member of the ASCE Concrete Canoe Team where he has served as a team member, safety coordinator, and project manager. In addition he serves as the event coordinator for Chi Epsilon. He is also a member of Tao Beta Phi, and the Academic Honors Association, where he has volunteered for various organizations in Los Angeles. Joshua is currently beginning his internship at the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. His hobbies include tennis, logic puzzles, and hiking.

**Trenton Saunders**



**Scholarship: \$1,000**

*Junior, Civil Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles*

Trenton is interested in a career related to wastewater management, potable water reclamation, or desalination. Over the last few years, Trenton has volunteered with the San Diego Coastkeeper as a water quality monitor, and has recently taken on a leadership position with the UCLA ASCE Environmental Design project. On Campus, Trenton holds the position of Vice President for the UCLA Surf Club and works as a lifeguard. In his free time, Trenton enjoys surfing, skateboarding, camping, hiking, and playing the bass.

**Sarah Mouakkad**



**Scholarship: \$1,000**

*Senior, Civil Engineering, California State University, Los Angeles*

Sarah has been involved in extracurricular activities and leadership since her first year. She was a member of ASCE's Steel Bridge team, Membership Coordinator for the Society of Women Engineers, Secretary of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and President of Chi Epsilon. She also participates in activities outside of the school realm by attending professional development events, being a volunteer at the California Science Center, and a member of her church's community service youth group. Sarah has a passion for the Water Resources and Environmental specialization. She aspires to have a career in public works with a City or County. She plans on achieving her goal by starting a Master's program in Fall 2016.

**Gregory Zaborski**



**Erv SpindelScholarship: \$1,250**

*Sophomore, Engineering, Saddleback College*

Gregory is student veteran who is active in his community and school where he is involved in several clubs including, Robotics, Astronomy and Physics, and Student Veterans of America (SVA). He recently attended the Warrior to Scholar project at Yale University and participated on this year's Solar Decathlon with Team Orange. He is serving as the president for SAME (*Society of American Military Engineers*) and VSC (*Veterans Student Council*). Gregory is currently interning at UCSB, where he conducts research to include RF sensing, see-through imaging with WiFi, X-ray vision for robots, communication-aware robotics, and robotic networks. His current educational path is to attend Stanford University to obtain his bachelor's degree in engineering. Through the completion of his immediate goals of higher learning, he will have the technical knowledge and skill sets to accompany his creative mind. He will apply his trade as a catalyst to positively change the way we live and the constructs of our societies.

## Annie Rosen



### Willdan Scholarship: \$1,500

*Junior, Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley*

Annie is pursuing an undergraduate degree in civil engineering. After completing her bachelor's degree, Annie intends to pursue a graduate degree in transportation engineering. Annie has contributed to her college community as a tutor in Saddleback College's Learning Resource Center over the past 3 years. The Women's Transportation Seminar has recognized Annie on the county and national levels for her academic achievements and her vision of an improved public transportation system connecting the greater Los Angeles area. The American Institute of Architects, Orange County, awarded Annie for her entry in the 2013 student design competition in which she reimagined the former Newport Beach Civic Center site as a sustainable mixed-use. Annie was recently certified as a SolidWorks Mechanical Design Associate. In her spare time, Annie enjoys playing guitar, gardening, and visiting new places in the Bay Area.

## Ashley Cronk



### Hal Harris Scholarship: \$1,750

*Sophomore, Environmental Engineering, Saddleback College*

Ashley plans to pursue a career in water conservation and alternative/sustainable energy, upon completion of her Bachelor's Degree. She is a member of the Saddleback College Bridge to Engineering Program and elected Officer of Events and Communications for the Veterans Student Council on Saddleback College's Associated Student Government. She is a member of the Geothermal Resource Council, Association of Energy Engineers, and member of Society of American Military Engineers student chapter. She has dedicated her time volunteering for the Ecology Center, U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, and Saddleback College's Native Garden. She is a mathematics tutor for Saddleback College's Learning Resource Center and also works part time as a server. Ashley's hobbies include playing guitar, cooking, and most importantly, learning.

## Chloe Gharios



### Dan Heil Scholarship: \$2,000

*Junior, Civil Engineering, California State University, Fullerton*

Chloe is a very active member of her ASCE chapter having served as vice president, and is the current president. She is also very active in her Cal Geo chapter and is the vice president of the GIGSO chapter. This past year she attended nationals and not only did Cal State Fullerton become back-to-back National Champions in the Geo Wall, but she was the youngest participant in the Geo Prediction competition and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. As well as she and the other board members led their ASCE chapter to a fourth place overall finish in the Pacific Southwest Conference. Chloe is currently interning at Mark Thomas & Company and enjoys working on both roadway and structures projects. Her passion other than engineering is soccer. She competed on Fullerton's Division I NCAA team for the past two years, and enjoys watching every game she can find on TV.

## Natalie Ernst



### Roy Butler Scholarship: \$2,000

*Junior, Civil Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona*

Natalie balanced a rigorous course load, which included junior-level engineering classes, along with being involved in several organizations and holding an on-campus job during her first two years. She served as Freshman Representative and Community Service Chair for the Cal Poly Pomona student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (CPP ASCE) and has been elected to serve as the President for the upcoming academic year. She is a member of the California Water Environmental Association, the Society of Women Engineers, and is in the Kellogg Honors College. She was on the planning committee for the first annual Donald G. Wells Alumni Golf Tournament, presented by CPP ASCE. Natalie is currently working as an intern for Atkins North America in Orange, CA, where the group she is working with has a focus of water infrastructure. Her goals for next year are to paddle with the ASCE Concrete Canoe team, run a successful student chapter out of Cal Poly Pomona, and maintain her high academic standing. Natalie's hobbies include spending time with her family and cheering on her favorite sports team, the Anaheim Ducks.

#### Scholarship Committee:

**Tony Olmos, Public Works Director, City of Manhattan Beach**

**Carlos Castellanos, Assistant City Engineer, City of Rancho Santa Margarita**

**Diego Cadena, Senior Consultant, Geosyntec Consultants**

**Harvey Gobas, Vice President Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Psomas**

**Dick Redmayne, Retired Director of Public Works**

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