Ohio EPA provided environmental science and engineering scholarships to 13 university students in 2015, to encourage them to complete their degrees and enter professional practice in Ohio. According to Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, “These awards encourage students to consider careers in environmental science and engineering. These fields not only offer many job opportunities, but are critical for training in advanced environmental technologies, advancing Ohio’s technical expertise and building Ohio’s future economy.”

Students in four-year programs who received a $2,500 scholarship for 2015 include:

- Tiffany Atkinson, Ohio State University (Environmental Science), Columbus
- Maria Bon, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Jeromesville
- Emily Cigolle, University of Cincinnati (Geology and Environmental Studies), Youngstown
- Amanda Conklin, Ohio State University (Environmental Engineering), Norton
- Cassandra Craig, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Orient
- Emily Hetman, Ashland University (Forensic Biology and Toxicology), North Olmsted
- Olivia Macek, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Willoughby
- Andrea Martinson, Cedarville University (Biology), Springfield
- Braydi McPherson-Hathaway, Ohio State University (Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering), Hilliard
- Dawn Musil, Ohio State University (Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology), Ashville
• Obagaeli Ngene-Igwe, Ohio State University (Biology), Columbus

• Jordyn Stoll, Cleveland State University (Environmental Science and Biology), Vermilion

• Amiah Warder, Cedarville University (Environmental Science), Sheridan, Wyoming

This year’s student recipients have research and work experience in areas such as:

• Nitrogen utilization and release by bacteria under hypoxic conditions in Lake Erie

• Effects of algal and sedimentary turbidity on fish in degraded urban streams

• Bioremediation of brewery wastes

• Effectiveness of activated carbon for treatment of cyanotoxins in drinking water

• Anaerobic digester effectiveness in processing agricultural wastes

• Biological pest controls

• Retention times of pesticides in soils

• U.S. EPA methods for extraction and analysis of contaminants such as arsenic in ground water, lead in soil and organic pesticides in sediments and surface water

Students are selected to receive scholarships based on an academic record with at least an overall GPA of 3.0; original research, scholarship, employment, volunteering, or other unique contributions to environmental science or environmental engineering; activity in non-athletic extra-curricular activities and organizations; ability to communicate; recommendations from education and environmental professionals; and a major in an environmental science or environmental engineering.
The program is administered through a partnership between Ohio EPA and the Ohio Academy of Science. Since the program began in 2000, $726,200 in scholarships have been awarded statewide to 295 students at 48 Ohio colleges and universities.