



Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2017

Twelve environmental science and engineering students received scholarships to study at Ohio colleges and universities this year, through Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund.

"These scholarships will allow some very accomplished students to complete their degrees and join the ranks of scientists dedicated to understanding and enhancing the environment," said Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler.

Students in four-year programs who will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year include:

- Levon Bajakian, Ohio State University (Environmental Science), Ringwood, NJ
- Mitchell Dever, Ashland University (Environmental Science and Biology), Ashland
- Erin Graves, Miami University (Geology and Environmental Science), Bowling Green
- Tara Lay, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Studies, Environmental Geology and Biology), Cincinnati
- Margaret Maloney, University of Dayton (Environmental Biology; Sustainability, Energy and Environment), Dayton
- Kateline Peck, Heidelberg University (Biology and Environmental Science), Austinburg
- Victoria Roeder, Ohio State University (Zoology), North Olmsted
- Andrew Shea, Ohio State University (Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability), Medina
- Emily Smith, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Environmental Biology), Mansfield
- Chelsea Steffes, Wittenberg University (Environmental Science and Economics), Moon Township, PA
- Rosa Tweed, Wright State University (Biology and Art), West Milton
- Mathias Wagner, Ohio State University (Evolution and Ecology), Cincinnati

This year's candidates have a variety of research and work experience on topics such as the following:

- Lead levels in the soil of community gardens
- Storm water management plans for new campus buildings
- Zooplankton diversity in storm water retention ponds
- Impact of invasive plants on salamander populations in headwater streams
- Coastal communities' resilience to natural hazards

- Design of a sling for injured birds at wildlife rehabilitation facilities
- Cleanup and restoration of property damage from fire, mold, and sewage overflows
- Consumer behavioral response to recycling incentives.
- Coral adaptation to elevations in temperature and pH
- Effects of nitrogen and phosphorus on aquatic organisms

A total of \$30,000 was awarded this year. Since the scholarship program began in 2000, \$817,450 has been awarded statewide to 332 students at 46 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws. The scholarship program is administered by the Ohio Academy of Science.

The next application deadline for scholarships is April 15, 2018. Additional information about the scholarship is available by calling Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873 or visiting www.epa.ohio.gov/oeo. To learn more about the Ohio Academy of Science, call (614) 488-2228 or visit www.OHIOSCI.org.