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**CONTACT:** Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160

## **Ohio EPA Selects Environmental Scholarship Winners**

Ohio EPA has selected 19 environmental science and engineering students to receive environmental scholarships for use at Ohio colleges and universities through the Agency's Environmental Education Fund. A total of \$46,250 in scholarships was awarded based on recommendations made by the Ohio Academy of Science.

According to Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally, "These awards encourage students to study careers in environmental science and engineering. These fields not only offer jobs, but provide critical training needed for careers in advanced environmental technologies, increasing Ohio's technical expertise while helping to build Ohio's future."

This year's student recipients have experience in areas such as:

- advanced oxidation processes to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater;
- photochemistry of semiconductor materials used in photovoltaic cells;
- genetic history and structure of Lake Erie walleye;
- native and invasive plant monitoring and mapping in power line corridors and on public lands;
- reducing emissions and improving efficiency of oil refinery flares;
- antibiotic resistance in flies and aquatic invertebrates downstream from storm water and wastewater outfalls in the Great Miami River;
- improving post-combustion carbon dioxide capture in industrial boilers;
- soil remediation at gas stations and demolition sites;
- designing drinking water treatment plant upgrades in Lima;
- using GPS and ArcMap to assist biologists in identifying new storm water sampling locations; and
- rehabilitating vacant lots and designing community gardens in Akron and Cleveland.

Since the program began in 2000, \$563,950 have been awarded statewide to 228 students at 47 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Attorney General's Office for violations of Ohio's air and water pollution control laws. The scholarship program is administered by the Ohio Academy of Science and is designed to motivate students to enter environmental science and engineering professions. The program rewards outstanding undergraduate students based on merit, encouraging employment in environmental fields.

Students in four-year degree programs receiving a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2011-2012 school year include:

- Maureen Berg, University of Dayton (Biology), West Chester;
- Peter Bode, Cleveland State University (Environmental Sciences), Brooklyn;
- Matthew Boothe, Marietta College (Petroleum Engineering), Dublin;
- Mary Cargill, Ashland University (Environmental Science), Wadsworth;
- Jill Carlson, Ohio University (Chemistry), Athens;
- Hillary Dean, University of Toledo (Environmental Science), Toledo;
- Maureen Heacock, Ashland University (Environmental Science and Geology), Crestline;
- Nichole Houze, University of Akron (Biology), Beach City;
- Eric Hoying, Ohio State University (Environmental Science), Sidney;
- Emily Marron, Ohio State University (Environmental Engineering), Oxford;
- Erin McDonald, University of Toledo (Chemical Engineering), Massillon;
- Claire McElroy, Otterbein University (Ecology and Environmental Studies), Piqua;
- Alison Moscarillo, University of Toledo (Chemical Engineering), Hudson;
- Tara Nemcik, University of Toledo (Civil Engineering), Stryker;
- Annika Sullivan, Oberlin College (Biochemistry), Portland, OR;
- Michael Whittemore, University of Rio Grande (Wildlife and Fish Conservation and Management), Framingham, MA;
- Victoria Wilson, University of Dayton (Chemical Engineering), Solon; and
- Ashley Woodworth, Shawnee State University (Environmental Engineering), North Olmsted.

A \$1,250 scholarship for a student in a two-year degree program was awarded to John Cahanin, Hocking College (Wildlife Management), Lancaster.

Students were selected to receive scholarships based on several criteria. These included overall grade point average of at least 3.0; a major in environmental science or environmental engineering-related program; involvement in nonathletic extra-curricular activities and organizations; an ability to communicate effectively; endorsement from education and environmental professionals; and experience doing original research. Other factors include scholarship, employment, volunteering or other unique contributions to environmental science or environmental engineering.

The next application deadline for scholarships is June 1, 2012. Additional information is available by calling Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873 or visiting [www.epa.ohio.gov/oeo](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeo). To learn more about the Ohio Academy of Science, call (614) 488-2228 or visit [www.OHIOSCI.org](http://www.OHIOSCI.org).