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

Ohio EPA Selects Environmental Scholarship Winners

Sixteen environmental science and engineering students have each been awarded \$3,350 scholarships to use for study at Ohio colleges and universities through Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund.

According to Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski, "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."

This year's student recipients have completed research or environmental work experience in areas such as:

- measuring salt contamination in Mentor Marsh;
- reducing water sample size without losing bacteria;
- conducting chemical analysis of Olentangy River tributary samples;
- monitoring wetlands;
- using catalytic photosensitizers to increase solar cell energy storage;
- investigating microbial disease vectors in contaminated streams and ponds;
- developing a rain barrel ordinance for the city of Parma;
- calculating economic and environmental benefits of switching a university bus fleet to biodiesel fuel;
- minimizing industrial waste;
- speeding the breakdown of biodegradable plastics; and
- bioremediation of pharmaceutical contaminants in waterways.

In 2010, a total of \$53,600 in scholarships were awarded. Since the program began in 1999, \$517,700 in scholarships have been awarded statewide to 209 students at 46 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's air and water pollution control laws. The scholarship program is administered by the Ohio Academy of Science. It is designed to motivate students to enter environmental science and engineering professions, and reward outstanding undergraduate students based on merit, enhancing their employability in environmental fields.

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Students receiving a 2010-2011 scholarship include:

- Gabriel Andrews, Ohio University (biological sciences), Marysville (Union County);
- Emily Bryant, Baldwin-Wallace College (sustainability), Rocky River (Cuyahoga County);
- Karie Charlton, Ashland University (environmental science), Danville (Knox County);
- Krystyna Chisholm, Ohio University (chemistry), Cincinnati (Hamilton County);
- Kyle Duffy, Miami University (engineering management), Mason (Warren County);
- Ashley Golphin, Kent State University (biology), Hudson (Summit County);
- Robert Hanlon, University of Toledo (chemical and environmental engineering), Chardon (Geauga County);
- Daniel Havallo, Ohio State University (environmental engineering), Hubbard (Trumbull County);
- Kimmaree Horvath, University of Akron (geology), Medina (Medina County);
- Shaun McDonald, University of Toledo (chemical engineering), Massillon (Stark County);
- Cody Murnen, University of Toledo (environmental sciences), Toledo (Lucas County);
- Joanne Neugebauer, Ohio Wesleyan University (botany), Euclid (Cuyahoga County);
- Gabriella Pardee, University of Toledo (environmental science), Toledo (Lucas County);
- Nicholas Van Horn, Ohio University (chemical engineering), Seven Hills (Cuyahoga County);
- Nicole Williams, Wittenberg University (biology), Park Forest, IL; and
- Sara Jo Zaleski, University of Rio Grande (wildlife and fish conservation and management), Norwalk (Huron County).

Students were selected to receive scholarships based on several criteria. These included an academic record with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0, a major in an environmental science or environmental engineering program, an activity in nonathletic extra-curricular activities and organizations, an ability to communicate effectively, recommendations from education and environmental professionals and original research, scholarship, employment, volunteering, or other unique contributions to environmental science or environmental engineering.

The next application deadline for scholarships is June 1, 2011. 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.