NEW YORK, April 27, 2020 — Twenty-four engineering students attending colleges and universities in New York State will receive $80,000 collectively in scholarships from member firms and regions of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York). Individual awards range from $2,500 to $10,000 and are given based on the students’ cumulative grade-point average, college activities, work experience and essays. Five of this year’s winners were also alumni of the ACE Mentor Program, which pairs high school students with mentoring teams composed of industry professionals (many of whom work for member firms) to introduce them to careers in the design and construction industry.

Since the program’s launch in 2002, ACEC New York has awarded 325 scholarships totaling $915,500. The scholarship program was implemented to support up-and-coming engineers, thereby guaranteeing a strong future for the profession in New York State. The Scholarship Committee’s goal is to reach a total of $1 million in collective scholarships by 2021 in honor of ACEC New York’s centennial celebration.

Two students were honored with ACEC New York Award of Merit Scholarships, each in the amount of $10,000. The Award of Merit is given by ACEC New York to recognize agencies and authorities for outstanding achievements in service to New York communities. An Award of Merit Scholarship in recognition of the Engineering News Record was awarded to Nadia Itani, and an Award of Merit Scholarship in recognition of the Gateway Program was awarded to Robert Winton.

Following is a complete list of the 2020 scholarship winners:

**ACEC New York Merit Scholarship in recognition of the Engineering News-Record - $10,000**

Nadia Itani *(Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY*  
Nadia is no stranger to striving for excellence. Despite the expectations for women in her family, Nadia pursued a college education, where mentorship programs and internship opportunities opened her eyes to a fulfilling career in one of the many facets of civil engineering. An enthusiastic and engaged individual, she balances her social life, academic life, and many extracurricular activities with grace and enthusiasm. Nadia eagerly anticipates applying this diligence to a future career in consulting engineering.

**ACEC New York Merit Scholarship in recognition of the Gateway Program - $10,000**

Robert Winton *(Environmental Engineering) | Columbia University, New York, NY*  
Robert’s experience seeing the impacts of climate change and lack of sustainable engineering practices in Zambia directly influenced his future career choice. Wanting to help others access basic needs, such as clean water and energy, has driven him to pursue a career as an environmental consultant. Robert also sees these needs in his new home of New York City, and he plans to apply his education, as well as his internship experiences with energy companies and NASA, to addressing these needs as a future consulting engineer.
STV Group Scholarship - $5,000
Jeremy Capuder (Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY
Jeremy is eager to rise to the challenges facing New York City engineers in the future. He sees the current and ongoing impact of continual growth and development, as well as the ever-present threat of climate change to the city’s infrastructure, and he strives to be part of the solution. Jeremy hones his technical and critical thinking skills not only through his academic and extracurricular pursuits but also through internship opportunities, such as his position with Amaracon, and his hard work will translate well to a career in engineering.

WSP USA Scholarship - $5,000
Michaela Tangredi (Mechanical Engineering) | Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
Michaela’s life philosophy centers on seeing a need and creating a solution for that need, helping others and creating a better world through innovation. She was inspired to pursue engineering by her admiration of her grandfather’s skill at homemade inventions, for example, creating a machine from old washing machine parts that processes tomatoes, resulting in her grandmother’s exceptional tomato sauce. Michaela aspires to a career in engineering in New York so she can not only apply her skills to help her community but also stay close to her family.

ACEC New York Eastern Region Scholarship - $2,500
Henry Klee (Civil Engineering) | Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
Henry’s experience at his internship provided important real-world experience and the motivation to pursue a career in consulting engineering. Henry not only experienced the positive impact engineering has on a community, but he also learned the importance of client interaction, as the client provided essential information. This aspect of the project put a human face to the project, which impacted not just a site but a family and a home. Henry will apply these lessons to a career in engineering in his home state of New York.

ACEC New York Long Island Region Scholarship - $2,500
Grace Stackowitz* (Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY
During her second summer internship, Grace was used to being the only woman on site, except for the one day a week that the consulting engineer, a woman close her age, came to check on the project. Grace’s passion for consulting engineering was kindled, as this role model introduced her to the myriad career paths available to her in consulting engineering, allowing her to apply her analytical and critical thinking skills to aspects of building construction that she already loved. Grace is eager to complete her education and enter the workforce as a consulting engineer.

ACEC New York Western Region Scholarship - $2,500
Rachel Foertech (Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY
Rachel’s main aspirations all tie back to her desire to help others. From building a wheeled cart for her mother’s herb garden in her garage to helping her rowing teammates on the water, her focus has always been on how her many talents can best serve those around her. Rachel believes she has found a career path in line with this calling in consulting engineering. As a future engineer, she looks forward to designing solutions to public needs and improving the quality of life in her community in New York City.

AKF Group Scholarship - $2,500
Virginia Jiang *(Chemical Engineering)* | Columbia University, New York, NY

Virginia is no stranger to advocacy. After discovering that her former school had high levels of lead in drinking fountains, she led a team as part of the Youth for National Change to lobby NJ to support limiting the amount of lead in drinking water in urban areas. Despite the bill being vetoed by the governor, Virginia hasn’t stopped striving for better solutions for the underrepresented and marginalized members of society. She plans to pursue a career in consulting engineering to benefit minority communities in New York City.

Dagher Engineering Scholarship - $2,500

Wasif Zaman *(Mechanical Engineering)* | City University of New York, New York, NY

Wasif’s sense of adventure and the need to explore was honed by his interest in comics, where fantastical things were designed and built by great minds. When he reached college, he chose mechanical engineering as his major because it seemed to have the broadest range of applications and career paths. He is intrigued by the many possibilities inherent in consulting engineering, and like many great thinkers and inventors of the past (and of fiction), he will indulge his myriad interests in a rewarding career in New York City.

Erich Arcement Creative Consulting Scholarship - $2,500

Konstantinos Konstantinidis *(Civil Engineering)* | Cooper Union, New York, NY

Konstantinos was inspired to explore engineering at the age of 12 when he experienced the fallout from Hurricane Sandy. Seeing the impact of engineers as they applied their expertise to the recovery, he was inspired by their contribution to the community. He also saw the potential for innovation and improvement in the field, which led to his choice of career in consulting engineering. He looks forward to applying new ideas and technology to a successful career in New York.

Hazen and Sawyer Scholarship - $2,500

Alyssa Hirani *(Civil Engineering)* | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY

Growing up in a family of engineers, Alyssa was already aware of the possibilities for a career, but she wasn’t sure she was passionate about this choice. During high school, she discovered and honed a love of math and science, and she was inspired to help others through her extracurricular activities and community service. In a key decision shaping her future, she decided to pursue engineering so she could not only apply her skills to helping others but also reap the rewards of innovating on behalf of her community.

HDR Scholarship - $2,500

Kerry Brosnan *(Civil Engineering)* | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY

A young Kerry was entranced by the engineering marvels all around her on her trips to New York City. From Times Square to Grand Central Station to One World Trade Center, she recognized New York as a bastion of engineering accomplishments, and she wanted to be part of this incredible system. Already possessing a talent for building and repairing household items, Kerry chose engineering as her career so she could solve complex problems and make the communities of New York even more magnificent.
Jaros, Baum & Bolles Scholarship - $2,500

Michele Chen* (Civil Engineering) | Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
Michele was introduced to engineering through her time in the ACE Mentor program, where her interactions with professionals from Jaros, Baum & Bolles revealed the many facets of a project, which included not only the design itself but also its impact on surrounding communities. Her sophomore internship at Stantec reinforced this notion. On that project, traffic engineers considered signage, transit options, pedestrian egress, as well as the economic impact to the region. She is excited to benefit society through a career in consulting engineering.

Langan Scholarship, In Memory of Maria Isabel Ramirez (09-11-01) - $2,500

Meryl Winicov (Environmental Engineering) | Columbia University, New York, NY
From her days on the soccer field, Meryl’s interest could not be restricted to just one position. She values diversity of experience, and she is excited by the possibilities of a dynamic work environment with constantly changing conditions and challenges offered by engineering. During her time with Engineers Without Borders in Ghana, she was involved in every aspect of the water access project, experiencing first-hand the ever-changing nature of an engineering project. She knows New York City will offer many options for a future career.

Loring Consulting Engineers Scholarship - $2,500

Ching Laam (Candice) Yuen* (Civil Engineering) | Cooper Union, New York, NY
Candice came to New York City in 2014 from Hong Kong, where she was born and raised. She views New York City through eyes that have seen and celebrated the marvels of the built environment in Hong Kong, including mixed-use construction and public transit, and she sees how New York can be improved. She is eager to be one of the minds behind the New York City of tomorrow. Her goal is to work for a cutting-edge consulting firm that will bolster New York’s reputation as a financial and economic center of the world.

M-E Engineers Scholarship - $2,500

Daniel Celic* (Chemical Engineering) | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
Daniel was inspired by his high school chemistry teacher, who taught him to strive for higher academic achievements. His desire to achieve was fostered alongside a desire to give back to his community and positively impact the world around him. These desires were further enhanced by the ACE Mentor program, which introduced him to the countless disciplines of engineering. Daniel plans to pursue a career in engineering in New York State, as well as participate in the Boy Scouts and ACE Mentor program as a counselor.

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers Scholarship - $2,500

Anne Loeliger (Civil Engineering) | Columbia University, New York, NY
Anne was impressed by the knowledge and skills demonstrated by the consulting engineers at her first internship at a construction company. She took note of not only their technical understanding but also their ability to communicate effectively with the client. Her interest in this possible career path was enhanced by her professor, a consultant for HDR, who shared his experience and encouraged critical thinking about projects. Anne is a Pennsylvania native, but if she doesn't practice in her home state, she would be proud to call New York her future home.
Pennoni Scholarship - $2,500

Natalia Dorogi (Engineering Technology) | Columbia University, New York, NY

Whether with Legos as a child or refurbishing laptops in high school, Natalia was eager to build. Her decision to pursue consulting engineering was piqued following her time at the Society of Women Engineers National conference, where she not only gained valuable insight into the many opportunities of the profession but also met a number of female role models already successful in the field. Building on this interest, Natalia attended an ACEC New York function on Hudson Yards, spurring a passion for addressing challenges in New York City in her future career.

Risk Strategies Scholarship - $2,500

Alec Tapia (Mechanical Engineering) | University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

The connections gained through alumni and professors at his alma mater have been invaluable to Alec. He has also gained hands-on industry and consulting experience in numerous competitions, including the Harvard Global Case Competition, where his team placed 14th of 300 international teams. Alec is also highly engaged in student life and assisting the college administration, feeding his passion for helping others solve problems and making life on campus better for all. His future goal is to open an engineering consulting firm of his own.

Sam Schwartz Engineering Scholarship - $2,500

Robert Del Prete (Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY

Robert experienced firsthand not only the devastation wrought by Sandy on his hometown of Long Beach, but also the triumph of ingenuity as the Army Corp of Engineers spearheaded the reconstruction process. He saw how designs were changed to prepare for possible future disasters. Robert was inspired by this work to pursue his own career in engineering, the diverse nature of which suits his need to continually learn and improve. Robert will be an active part of building and strengthening his home community in New York.

Stantec Scholarship - $2,500

Danielle DeSimone (Civil Engineering) | Manhattan College, Bronx, NY

Danielle wasn’t about to quietly accept her leukemia diagnosis at the tender age of 19. She was especially spurred to action when information came to light on similar cancer diagnoses in others in her hometown around her age, which led to suspicion of an environmental influence. She was inspired to study civil engineering with an environmental focus so she could be part of a solution to issues like these and prevent the derailment of other young lives by outside and avoidable forces.

Syska Hennessy Group Scholarship - $2,500

Katrina Wong (Chemical Engineering) | Columbia University, New York, NY

Growing up in New York City, Katrina thrived on the fast-paced environment, and she was always looking for the next challenge, which led her to major in chemical engineering. As she moved through her studies and her knowledge grew, she was fascinated by the engineering marvels in everyday life, and she was eager to see her academic prowess translate to real-world impact. Katrina is grateful to her professors for inspiring her to follow this path, and she will leverage her passion to help her hometown of New York in her future career.
Thornton Tomasetti Scholarship - $2,500
Lucas Grafals *(Civil Engineering) | Columbia University, New York, NY
At Brooklyn Technical High School, an engineering design class and a physics class shaped Lucas’s future career path in civil engineering. It wasn’t until his internship with Thornton Tomasetti that he was introduced to the forensics side of engineering. As his family in Puerto Rico had recently experienced a number of natural disasters, he was especially keen to learn how to address infrastructure issues and future-proof the built environment. He plans to practice in New York but also hopes to work abroad on projects in Puerto Rico.

VHB Scholarship - $2,500
Patrick Phillips *(Engineering Technology) | University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Patrick knows that there’s always room for improvement in the built environment, and he thinks it is especially important to consider the balance between caution and waste. His knack for noticing inefficiency fits well with his interest in engineering, and he is enthusiastic to bring innovation to a world where new technology is always moving the bar for efficiency. Like the infrastructure around him, Patrick is excited about a career that will allow him to continue to grow and improve, and he will apply his ever-evolving skills to improving his community in New York.

*ACE Mentor of Greater New York alumnus
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ACEC New York is a proactive coalition of nearly 300 firms representing every discipline of engineering related to the built environment—civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, environmental, geotechnical—and affiliated companies. Our shared goals are to further the business interests of our membership, enhance the quality and safety of the environment we live and work in, and help ensure the vitality of our communities. For more information, visit www.acecny.org.