CSU Students Grateful for National Scholarships

College is expensive, so many students turn to financial aid to help pay for a quality education, especially scholarship awards offered by generous companies and organizations both locally and nationally. One such organization, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), has a foundation that offers scholarships to undergraduates and graduates enrolled in accredited construction management or related engineering programs across the country.

This year, 111 students received awards, and five of the six recipients in Colorado are students at CSU: Coby Corkle, Brian Derkash, Matthew Fitch, Kris Kreymborg, and Cody Stoltenberg. “It is a great honor to receive this award from the AGC,” said Kreymborg, a senior in the CM program. “The generosity and commitment put forth by the AGC is tremendous, and I am humbled to be a recipient of this scholarship.”

Stoltenberg, also a CM senior, expressed similar sentiments when he said, “It is truly an honor to receive the AGC Foundation Scholarship award, and I offer my thanks for it. I am sincerely grateful!” And Derkash, who is pursuing a second bachelor’s degree, added his praise for AGC’s commitment to students. “I really appreciate AGC for caring about my education,” he said. “It’s nice to know I’m entering an industry that cares about the education of its future managers.”

According to the AGC Foundation’s website, the goal is to fund the future of the industry. Corkle, a busy CM senior double-majoring in Business Administration, is especially grateful to have received an award so that he can devote time to becoming one of the best future members of industry. “This scholarship provides a means of paying for my education,” he explained. “This relief allows me to focus more time on my studies and spend less time working to pay for school.”

Fitch expressed similar gratitude when he said, “With my military benefits ending March 9, receiving the AGC Partnering Scholarship will help me in continuing to pursue my professional goals. My sincere appreciation goes out to all involved in my selection for this award.”
ABC Team Benefits From Industry Input

The conference is April 23-27, but the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) team has been preparing for weeks for the competition at ABC’s Edcon & Expo in San Antonio, Texas. Motivated by last year’s success in taking third place overall and second place in estimating, the team is determined to achieve top finishes again.

Team members Stephenie Beal, William Bruce, Max Finster, Jon Glumac, and Ryan Marsh have been spending countless hours working to perfect their project presentation and are eager to compete against other ABC chapters from around the country. Part of their preparations include sitting down with members of industry to learn techniques and methods for completing certain aspects of the project as well as practicing the presentation in front of a professional audience. Companies that have worked with the group include FCI Constructors, Inc.; Mortenson Construction; RK Mechanical; Cutting Edge Glass; and Duro Electric. “The ABC student chapter would like to send a huge thank you to these companies,” said Beal. “Without the help of these industry members, it wouldn’t be possible for us to be so successful in the competition.”

MCAA Team Places in Top Ten

Twenty-seven schools competed in this year’s Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) student competition and, once again, the team from CSU finished within the top ten. Top placing teams travelled to the MCAA Convention in Orlando, Fla., March 18-22 to accept their awards.

The competition calls for each team to create a fictional company to address the many unique challenges presented in the project’s RFP. Final bids were submitted in December, and the competition concludes with the top four teams presenting their proposals to a panel of judges. "The competition has, once again, been elevated to an even higher standard for those schools seeking to place in the top four," said Sara Podgorski, one of the members of this year’s CSU team. "The whole experience was insightful and inspirational, so much so that members of our MCAA group are already discussing ideas and methods to implement into next year’s competition. Our goal is first place!"
CM student organizations are always searching for the latest industry trends to share with fellow students to boost their knowledge for their future careers, and bringing representatives of innovative companies to campus is one way to share these trends. The student chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) hosted two electrical contractors to present on topics including the solar electrical industry and resume building.

In February, Juwi Solar, Inc., a developer and contractor of solar power plants throughout North America, visited campus to present on the history of the company and how solar power is converted into electricity. The company, based in Boulder, Colo., develops, builds and operates large-scale solar, wind and biomass energy projects and has constructed over 1,500 photovoltaic projects.

In March, members of Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc., came to campus to provide insight into building an advantageous resume for future career development. The presenters shared the history of Sturgeon as well as personal accomplishments and failures regarding resume writing. “They ended with crucial points to remember about resumes and interviews,” said Callie Gabelman, NECA president. “These included being interested in the topics you are discussing, letting who you are as a person shine through your answers to questions, having actual knowledge of the company you are applying to, and not having errors on your resume.”
Students Become Equipment Certified

On March 22, Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX) honor society teamed up with the Associated General Contractors (AGC) student chapter and SunState Rentals in Fort Collins to offer an equipment certification course for CM students. Twenty students attended the training course presented by JD Hale of SunState. Instruction included a brief introductory video followed by a quiz and then a trip out to the SunState facility for some in-cab experience on the equipment.

The students practiced on both scissor lifts and boom lifts, and each participant obtained a certification card that allows them to operate this machinery on job sites. Mike Utter, SLX president, believes that the certifications will definitely benefit the students in their future careers. “This is an exciting item to add to their resumes and demonstrate their skills to future employers,” he said.

Upcoming Events

CM Golf Classic

The annual CM Golf Classic is set for Friday, April 27, 2012 at the SouthRidge Golf Course in Fort Collins. Shotgun tee time is 8:00 AM. For more information, contact Andi Lewis at lwandi3@rams.colostate.edu or Zach Belsey at zbelsey@gmail.com.

USGBC presents Bob Berkebile

Nationally recognized architect Bob Berkebile will be the Industry Connections Keynote Speaker on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 6:15 PM in 222 Johnson Hall on the CSU campus. Berkebile is the founding chairman of the American Institute of Architects’ National Committee on the Environment (AIA COTE) and was instrumental in the formation of the US Green Building Council and its LEED rating system. He has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including the 2009 Heinz Award for his leadership and commitment to the environment. He will be presenting on students’ ability to impact construction/design, integrated design process, standards of social and environmental behavior, and more.