2019-2020 Scholarship Recipients

The Project SEED College Scholarship is a first-year nonrenewable scholarship for Project SEED participants entering their freshman year majoring in a chemical science field. In 2019, 27 students who have demonstrated a high potential to succeed in chemistry were awarded the college scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. Additionally, three SEED College Scholarship recipients were awarded a three-year renewable college scholarship for the 2019-2021 academic years. Congratulations to the recipients of the College Scholarships; the ACS Committee on Project SEED wishes all students continued success in their future studies.

CIBA SPECIALTY CHEMICALS SCHOLARS

CIBA Specialty Chemicals was a leading global chemical company acquired by BASF in 2008. The Ciba Foundation made a generous legacy gift to the American Chemical Society to establish the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Scholars Endowment, a new component added to the Project SEED college scholarship program, which expanded the one-year Project SEED college scholarships to a three-year renewable scholarship. As of today, 13 of the 21 awardees have graduated in the chemical sciences.

Richard Nwakamma is attending Emory University, majoring in Chemistry. Richard is part of the honor society Phi Eta Sigma at his university. His goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. He wants to do his research in new drug development.

John Rezk is attending Princeton University, majoring in Chemistry. John undertook a summer research project exploring electrochemical carbon dioxide reduction. His goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry or Chemical and Biological Engineering.

LOCONTI SCHOLAR

The Joseph D. Loconti Endowment is a new addition to the scholarship offerings for Project SEED. Joseph Loconti was a 78-year member of ACS and contributed annually from 2009 to 2013. He was a professor at Cornell University (1946) and founded the Paper Thermometer Company in 1953. Upon his passing in early 2019, he bequeathed $500,000 towards both Project SEED summer research fellowships and college scholarships. Of the gift, $450,000 was used to create the Joseph D. Loconti Endowment. Starting in 2020, this renewable scholarship will be issued each year to an incoming freshman, and will continue through their senior year.

Mirka Ortiz is attending New Jersey City University, majoring in Chemistry. Mirka is currently a student researcher in the organic chemistry department. Mirka’s goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry and one day work for a pharmaceutical company.
Alfred Bader is one of the founders of the Sigma-Aldrich Company. Alfred and Isabel Bader have generously contributed to Project SEED over the years. In 1992 their support started the Summer II program and since 1997, supported the Project SEED college scholarships.

Aysha Zaher graduated from Elizabeth High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Salvatore Coniglio at Kean University, Aysha worked on a research project titled "Group Summer Scholars Research Program-CCR1." Aysha will attend Rutgers University - New Brunswick and major in Chemistry in hopes to become a Neurosurgeon in the future.

Calvin Nguyen is a graduate of Capital High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Kevin Ausman at Boise State University, Calvin worked on a research project titled "Stability of Aqueous Buckminsterfullerene Colloids." Calvin is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University.

Bawi Sung is a graduate of Southport High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Bill Gilhooly at Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science, Bawi worked on a research project titled "Using Geochemistry to Study the Microbial Ecology of Lakes." Bawi is majoring in Biochemistry at Indiana University Bloomington.

Chelsea Sims is a graduate of Dollarway High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Chelsea worked on a project titled "Effects of Free Radicals on the Stability of Photoelectrode in Photoelectrochemical Water" under the guidance of Grant Wangila at University of Arkansas, where she will also attend college and major in Chemistry.

Chui Yi Ho graduated from Lowell High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. She worked on a research project titled "Engineering Enzymes for Biomass Degradation toward Biofuels" under the guidance of Sarah Throne at United States Department of Agriculture Western Research Center. Chui Yi is majoring in Biochemistry at University of California, Davis.
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Claire Gray is a graduate of Northview High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Ajith Karunarathne at University of Toledo, Claire worked on a research project titled "Measurement of Retinal and Sunlight Induced Photodamage to Cells." Claire is majoring in Chemistry at Brown University where she hopes to conduct academic research.

Cole Strekal graduated from Parma Senior High and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Yaorong Zheng at Kent State University, Cole worked on a research project titled "Mitochondria-Targeted Platinum-Based Anticancer Agents Designed to Eliminate Cancer Stem Cells and Overcome Drug Resistance in Ovarian Cancer." Cole is majoring in Chemistry at Ohio State University and wants to work in drug research.

Cylah Bailey is a graduate of James M. Bennett High. Previously, she participated in Project SEED in 2017 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. In 2018, under the guidance of James Fedchak at National Institute of Standards and Technology, Thermodynamic Metrology Group, Cylah worked on a research project titled "Absorption and Outgassing Properties of Materials." Cylah is majoring in Chemistry at Stevenson University.

Darla Martinez graduated from Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy and participated in Project SEED in 2016. Darla worked on a research project titled "Computing with Molecules" under the guidance of Jennifer Chaytor at Saginaw Valley State University. Darla is pursuing a degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Michigan State University. She plans to pursue a career in research.

Diana Angeles Ramos is a graduate of Tigard High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. Diana worked on a research project titled "Bioactivity-Guided Purification of Active Compounds from Common Plants" under the guidance of Angela Hoffman at University of Portland. Diana is majoring in Biochemistry at Portland State University and plans to pursue a MD/PhD in Biochemistry.

Emily Xu is a graduate of Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology and participated in Project SEED in 2017. Under the guidance of Neville Forlemu at Georgia Gwinnett College, Emily worked on a research project titled "Homology Modeling of Antimalarial Protein Targets." Emily is majoring in Biochemistry at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.
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Feven Welde graduated from Brownsburg High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Partha Basu at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science, Feven worked on a research project titled "Expression and Purification of Periplasmic Nitrate Reductase.” Feven is majoring in Biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University and hopes to move on to medical school or pursue a MD/PhD.

Ihuoma Iheirika participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Xi Chen at University of California, Davis, she worked on the research project “Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Carbohydrates.” She is attending UC Davis and majoring in Biochemistry.

Giancarlo Irizarry is a graduate of Colegio Marista de Guaynabo and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Lilian Plotkin at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Medicine, Giancarlo worked on a research project titled "Expression and Purification of Periplasmic Nitrate Reductase.” Giancarlo is majoring in Chemistry at Providence College.

Juan Rodriguez is a graduate of Colegio Marista de Guaynabo and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Lilyan Plotkin at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Medicine, Juan worked on a research project titled "Expression and Purification of Periplasmic Nitrate Reductase.” Juan is majoring in Chemistry at Providence College.

Leilani Garcia is a graduate of Union City High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Leilani worked on a research project titled "Exploring Alkali Promotion for Carbon Dioxide Activation and Catalyst Coke Suppression" under the guidance of Elaine Gomez at Columbia University. Leilani is majoring in Chemical Engineering at New Jersey Institute of Technology and is interested in pursuing a PhD.

Maelah Robinson-Castillo is a graduate of Centennial High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Sandra Bonetti at Colorado State University - Pueblo, Maelah worked on a research project titled "Effects of Zn and Cu on Fungal Hydrolase Activities" and learned 23 new chemistry techniques. Maelah is pursuing a degree in Chemistry and Molecular Biology at University of Denver.
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Maliha Yeasmin is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Catalin Martin at Ramapo College of New Jersey, Malia worked on a research project titled "Deposition of Monolayers of Metallic Nanoparticles Using the Langmuir-Blodgett Technique." Malia is majoring in Environmental Engineering at Rutgers University - New Brunswick where she wants to pursue molecular-level research.

Mohamed Naji graduated from Bloomington North High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Mohamed worked on a research project titled "Electrochemical Paper-based Devices for Ion Quantification" under the guidance of Frederique Deiss at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science. Mohamed is majoring in Chemical Engineering at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Nikki Dodd is a graduate of North Central High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Hiroki Yokota at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Engineering and Technology, Nikki worked on a research project titled "Analysis of Bone-Tumor Interactions Using Mouse Mammary Tumor Cells." Nikki is majoring in Biochemistry at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and hopes to pursue a MD/PhD program.
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ASHLAND SCHOLARS

Ashland Inc. is a leading global company which provides specialty chemicals, technologies and expertise to customers worldwide. Since 2011, Ashland Inc. has sponsored Project SEED alumni.

Shun Shueh is a graduate of Centennial High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. Under the guidance of Takashi Tsukamoto at Johns Hopkins University, Shun worked on a research project titled "Drug Discovery Driven by Chemistry." Shun is majoring in Chemical Engineering at University of Maryland. She plans to research environmental sustainability.

Sokobe Chuong graduated from Bear Creek High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Jerry Tsai at University of the Pacific, Sokobe worked on a research project titled "Effects of Protein Sequence on Protein Structure through Modern Molecular Biology Techniques.” Sokobe is majoring in Chemical Engineering at California State University, Long Beach.

BAYER SCHOLARS

The Bayer Foundation contributed to the Project SEED Endowment. Bayer is a research based company with major businesses in health care and life sciences as well as chemicals and imaging technologies. Since 1993, Bayer has supported Project SEED alumni.

Prachee Roy Mazumder graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Under the guidance of Joshua Sacher at Broad Institute, Prachee Roy worked on a research project titled "Selective Sodium Channel Modulators for Neuropsychiatric disease.” Due to her experience with medicinal chemistry, Prachee Roy has decided to major in Biochemistry at Colby College.
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FOSBINDER SCHOLARS

The Estate of Elizabeth Ernest Fosbinder, wife of late ACS member, Dr. Russel J. Fosbinder stipulated the establishment of an endowment in honor of Dr. Fosbinder to fund college scholarships for graduates of Project SEED. Since 2004, the endowment has supported Project SEED alumni.

Zainab Abolade Lawson graduated from George Bush High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Andrew Barron at Rice University, Zainab Abolade worked on a research project titled "Interactions of Nanomaterials with Plants." Zainab Abolade is majoring in Biochemistry at Texas A&M University.

Zek Kelly graduated from East High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Matthew Cranswick at Colorado State University-Pueblo, Zek worked on a research project titled "Modeling the Activity of Mo/W-Containing Nitrate Reductase of Pyrobaculum Aerophilium.” Zek is majoring in Chemistry at Colorado School of Mines.

ULLYOT SCHOLARS

Glenn and Barbara Ullyot. Glenn Ullyot worked for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories. He was a major contributor to the discovery and manufacture of new drugs to the medical world. Barbara Ullyot had a management career at ACS and was a valuable member. Glenn and Barbara provided college scholarships to Project SEED students over their lifetime.

Camryn Franke is a graduate from Washington Tech High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. At University of Minnesota under the guidance of Romas Kazlauskas, she worked on a research project titled “Characterization of Ancestral Enzymes.” Camry is attending Stanford University to study Biochemistry.

Oluwapelumi Oguntade is a graduate of Rufus King High School. Under the guidance of Blake Hill at Medical College of Wisconsin, Oluwapelumi worked on a research project titled "Protein Residue Identification and Research." Oluwapelumi is pursuing a degree in Chemistry at Marquette University and hopes to become a translational scientist in the future.