



SIPES FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dallas, Texas – The SIPES Foundation, overseeing the scientific, educational and charitable programs of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, is pleased to announce that ten outstanding earth science and engineering students have been selected to receive scholarship awards this year. Applications were accepted from currently-enrolled, upper-division or graduate students who are U.S. Citizens studying any field of earth science or engineering, and who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Receiving a \$3,000 award from the Marvolene Speed Bennett and Carleton D. Speed, Jr. Endowed Fund is **Hannah Wright**, a master's degree student in geology at the University of Alabama. Receiving \$2,500 awards from the Stephen E. Collins Memorial Scholarship Fund; and the Edward A. McCullough Endowed Fund are **Shawn Lopez**, a master's degree candidate in geology at the Colorado School of Mines; and **Hayden Thompson**, an undergraduate student in geological sciences at New Mexico State University.

Receiving a \$2,500 award funded by a gift from the SIPES Midland, Texas Chapter is **Ryan Robbins**, a master's degree student in geoscience at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Also receiving \$2,500 awards are **Rachelle Kernen**, a doctoral candidate in geological sciences, **Sandra Garcia**, a master's degree student in geological sciences, **James Rutkofske**, a doctoral candidate in geological sciences, and **Alan Vennemann**, a master's degree student in geophysics, all at the University of Texas at El Paso; **Maxwell Pommer**, a doctoral candidate in geological sciences at Colorado School of Mines; and **Megan Brown**, a doctoral candidate in geological sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Since its founding in 1981, the SIPES Foundation has awarded scholarships to 235 promising earth science and engineering students. Funding for the 2016 awards was made possible through generous donations from SIPES Members; bequests from the Foundation's endowed funds above, and from a designated gift from the SIPES Chapter in Midland, Texas. The SIPES Foundation also conducts and films educational seminars, contributes funding to earth science publications and continuing education programs, and maintains an extensive library of earth science films.

The Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists is a national organization of more than 1200 self-employed geologists, geophysicists and engineers engaged primarily in domestic energy exploration and development. SIPES has twelve chapters located in oil and gas centers of the United States. Applications for the SIPES Foundation Earth Science Scholarships are available on the SIPES website annually after March 1.

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