

IAAP Education Foundation Scholarship Programs

Members of the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers (IAAP) believe in the importance of encouraging and facilitating students to pursue an education in a field of study that will open opportunities to work in the crushed stone, sand, gravel, and industrial mineral mining industry in Illinois or a career teaching Earth Science or Geology.

This year the IAAP awarded six scholarships of at least \$2,000 each between two scholarship programs. These scholarships are a one-year grant for direct educational expenses. Students may re-apply in subsequent years.

The **Education Foundation Scholarship** supports students learning and training to be the next generation of professionals in the industry.

Aaron Mickelson is a Senior at St. Norbert's College in Wisconsin and will graduate with a degree in Geology. In 2021, he completed an internship with RiverStone Group where he learned quality control procedures and examined cores from exploration drillings. Then, in 2022, he interned at aggregate producer Walbec Group in Wisconsin as a quality control technician and certified highway tech with the Wisconsin DOT where he gained much knowledge about asphalt pavements. Aaron has been selected for an IAAP Education Scholarship all four years of college and this year became the Frank Geske Memorial Scholarship recipient, receiving a \$3000 scholarship. Aaron is from Milan, Illinois.

German Laiton is a Junior at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais and is majoring in Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering and is very interested in cement and concrete. Before starting at Olivet, he completed an internship testing concrete strength for a geotechnical and civil engineering firm in his home country of Columbia. In 2022, as a civil engineering intern for the public works and engineering department in Romeoville, Illinois, he worked with engineers inspecting newly-built, concrete structures. German resides in Bourbonnais and wishes to begin his professional career near Chicago.

Mathew Tipton is attending his third year at the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and majoring in Civil Engineering. His family owned a concrete construction company, and his ultimate goal is to become a licensed, professional engineer. While attending college, he began an internship that turned into part-time employment at a small engineering firm designing concrete projects while maintaining full-time student status. Mathew is from Saint Jacob, Illinois.

Hannah McCoon is a Freshman at Augustana College in Rock Island and majoring in Geology and Spanish language. Her mother works for RiverStone Group which gave Hannah the opportunity to visit a quarry and talk with the company's geologists before discovering her passion for rocks during a geology fieldtrip to the Rocky Mountains last summer. Hannah lives in Port Byron, Illinois.

Roman Boisvert attends Universal Technical Institute in Lisle, Illinois and is studying Diesel Technology which will allow him to become a field technician servicing off-road, heavy-duty equipment at pits and quarries. Roman's father works for Heidelberg Materials and a visit to a quarry as a kid sparked his interest in large machines mining rock. Roman has a passion for the

trades and working with his hands and mind to build and maintain essential infrastructure built with aggregate materials. Roman lives in Plainfield, Illinois.

The **Joanne Kluessendorf Memorial Scholarship** promotes the education of individuals seeking a career in teaching Earth Science or Geology to students or the general public.

Farren Ackerman is the Kluessendorf Memorial Scholarship recipient and is pursuing a Geology degree and Chemistry minor with a goal of becoming a university professor teaching future geologists, civil engineers, Earth scientists, and construction professionals and doing research into improving building materials made from aggregates. She will graduate this spring with an Associates degree from Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield and will attend an as yet determined university in Illinois to complete a doctoral degree. Curiosity about the natural world and how we transform it inspired Farren to call Buckhart Sand & Gravel last year and ask for a tour of their operation where she learned about quality and gradation of these essential materials and how important the aggregate industry is to our quality of life. Farren has achieved Eagle Scout rank and lives in Virden, Illinois.