



Kirt Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship

Keep California's water clean by helping water environment students get the education they need.



California Water Environment Association
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Kirt Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship Program

Helping water environment students like Megan Yoo get the education they need to help keep California's water clean



Megan Yoo
Kirt Brooks Scholarship Recipient 2009 and 2010

Megan is a dynamic individual who has a distinct passion for water and wastewater. With extensive experience stemming from a childhood love of water to high school research endeavors to an education and career path solely devoted to water and wastewater, Megan demonstrates a deep-rooted dedication and commitment to the field. Megan has dedicated countless hours in her efforts to promote the education and success of the younger generation, and she is very passionate about the future of the water and wastewater profession. Her ultimate goal is to educate the next generation while ensuring the safety of their future by continuing to research and focus on pursuing regulations that benefit not only the environment, but also the overall health of the people. Megan is a two-time California winner of the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize for water

science research while she was in high school. Her last research project was "Chlorination: saving lives everyday, or is it? A study on the formation of trihalomethanes in natural water."

More donations to CWEA's Scholarship Program means CWEA could help more students like Megan

The Kirt Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship Program is a grant-making program for students, like Megan, who are engaged in the water environment field and who are members of CWEA or sponsored by CWEA members. The scholarship program has awarded grants to more than 100 students totaling over \$85,000 to support professional excellence and educational growth at the associate, bachelor and graduate student levels.

As of May 2010, the Scholarship Fund balance is \$297,862 with a growth target goal of \$500,000. CWEA accepts and encourages private individuals, businesses and industry organizations to contribute to this worthy effort. Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Annual contributions from members and CWEA's Local Sections range from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars. Each year, as many \$500 - \$5,000 scholarships are awarded as donations to the Fund will allow. Due to the economic downturn and rising tuition, competition for awards has become increasingly strong with many outstanding candidates applying but being turned down.

Cleaning and protecting the state's water is an enormous task. Crumbling infrastructure, a record economic downturn, emerging contaminants including endocrine disrupters, drinking water scarcity and climate change all contribute to the difficulty of keeping our expanding population safe and healthy, and preserving our water resources for future generations. Along with these pressures, the water environment profession expects to lose a large chunk of its workforce to retirement in the next decade. More students are needed in science and natural resources in order to fill this critical gap. The Kirt Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship helps the most talented young people with economic need pursue careers in the water environment field.

About Kirt Brooks

CWEA's scholarship program was named after Kirtland "Kirt" Brooks, who contributed his time, creativity and wisdom to CWEA for nearly 30 years. Kirt became active in the CWEA San Francisco Bay Section and several other northern California sections in the mid '60s and then expanded his roles as a CWEA Director and its first paid staff person. He saw the scholarship as a logical extension of the Association's basic purpose of education of its members.





California Water Environment Association
Protecting our water environment through education and certification

Kirk Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship Winner Profiles

Kirk Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship recipients have gone on to serve the public and environment in varied roles such as water quality lab analysts, environmental and civil engineers, university educators, pollution prevention professionals, regulators, utility administrators and managers, and operations and maintenance personnel.



Megan Yoo, 2009 \$1,000 Award and 2010 \$2,000 Award (pictured right in the photo)

Megan studies chemical engineering at Irvine Valley College and was working at Black and Veatch at the time this photo was taken. Megan is a two-time winner of CWEA's prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize for water science research and presented the results of her high school research findings at CWEA's Annual Conferences, knocking the socks off of professionals in the water environment field. Megan's CWEA involvement has deepened at both the local and state level, as she has joined the CWEA Santa Ana River Basin Section's Board of Directors and chairs CWEA's Student and Young Professionals State committee, through which she is energizing young professionals to be part of the water environment field.

Pitiporn Asvapathanagul, 2009 \$1,000 Scholarship (pictured left in the photo)

Pitiporn immigrated to the United States from Thailand with considerable experience in Civil and Environmental Engineering but worked for minimum wage as a waitress to support herself through her graduate work. As part of her doctoral studies at the University of California, Irvine, she developed state-of-the-art research for dewatering sludges. Her advisor, Dr. Betty Olson wrote in a letter of support that Pitiporn's "intellectual ability is amongst the best I have seen in my 30+ years of teaching."

Omar Gomez, 2009 \$1,000 Award

Omar is an undergraduate studying Civil Engineering at UC Davis and is sponsored by a CWEA San Francisco Bay Section member. While in high school, he interned for two years with the City of Daly City as part of its Distribution and Collection system staff. He was well praised for quickly gaining competency in the field and for assisting his colleagues in their learning.

Lauren Blomberg, 2010 \$500 Scholarship

Lauren studies microbiology at Cal Poly and is passionate about identifying and reducing marine pathogens. Her laboratory experience has culminated with a position as a Water Quality Analyst for the San Luis Obispo Wastewater Quality Department. She is currently studying for CWEA certification as a Grade 1 Lab Analyst.

Joshua Cosgrove, 2010 \$1,000 Award

Joshua is pursuing a Master's of Public Administration from Golden Gate University while raising two young children with his wife and working full-time for the Wastewater Division of the City of Pacifica. He started out as a janitor at the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant and advanced to his current position as an assistant manager. He attained a CWEA Grade IV Collection System Certificate and a Grade III Certificate in the Operations of a Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has served on the Board of Directors of the North Coast County Water District since 2004.



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Kirt Brooks Memorial Water Environment Scholarship Donation Form

Donor Information

Name	
Billing address	
City	
State	
ZIP Code	
Telephone (home)	
E-Mail	

Yes, I want to help water environment students get the education they need!

I (we) pledge a total of \$_____ in the form of: ____ cash ____ check ____ credit card

Credit card type	
Credit card number	
Expiration date	
Authorized signature	

Is this Donation a Memorial or on Behalf of Someone Else?

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

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Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to CWEA.

Send completed form and payment to:

California Water Environment Association
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 600
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Questions? Call (510) 382-7800 or visit www.cwea.org.