



2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship Report



Nicholas Azpeitia
\$2,000



Juliana Covarrubias
\$2,000



William Dayton
\$2,000



Taylor Hollcraft
\$2,000



Calvin Stephens
\$2,000

Dear Western Plastics Pioneers,

The SPE Foundation is pleased to share a report of the 2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship. Thank you for your support of some of our industry's most outstanding scholars. Together, we awarded 83 scholarships to 50 individuals totaling nearly \$200,000. We invite you to view the entire list of our 2021 scholars at www.4spe.org/scholarships.

As we continue through the pandemic, students still face mounting challenges, and your support is especially generous and timely.

Thank you for making a difference for Nicholas, Juliana, William, Taylor, and Calvin. We are grateful for your investment and commitment to our future plastics professionals and hope you enjoy reading about their interest in plastics and future career plans.

Sincerely,

Eve Vitale, Chief Executive
SPE Foundation



WESTERN
PLASTICS
PIONEERS

Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship Past Scholars

2020			2019			2018	2017	2016
Juliana Covarrubias \$2,000	William Dayton \$2,000	Alison Van Horn \$2,000	Michael Sadri \$2,000	Jillian McKenzie \$2,000	Michaela Sadri \$2,000	Levi Hammernik \$2,000	Brady Donegan \$2,000	Alec Jobbins \$2,000

\$28,000

2016-2021

Total Western Plastics Pioneers Awards



NICHOLAS AZPEITIA

2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholar
\$2,000

"I would like to thank the Western Plastics Pioneers for their generous financial support as I pursue my higher education. Although my knowledge of the plastics industry is currently limited to 3D printing, I look forward to learning more about polymer science and its specific applications. This scholarship will allow me to better focus on that goal, and I could not be more grateful for that. I would be honored to attend the Western Plastics Pioneers Annual Meeting as I look forward to connecting with experienced individuals in the plastics industry whom I may learn more from. Thank you, again to the Western Plastics Pioneers for their support and generosity!"

Nicholas Azpeitia is an incoming first-year student majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a specialization in controls and robotics at Warren College. Nicholas is looking forward to engaging with the UCSD STEM Community through clubs, makerspaces, and competitions. Nicholas hopes to help younger underrepresented students become interested in STEM through coordinating and helping in STEM-related educational outreach programs. He hopes to gain valuable engineering experience through internships and research while completing his education at UCSD. Nicholas' ultimate dream is to help the world through STEM by solving the 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st century.



JULIANA COVARRUBIAS

2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholar
\$2,000

“Once again, thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship. Last year, I was the recipient of this very scholarship, and it made the most incredible difference in my life. With it, I was able to afford tuition, books, food, and housing. Your scholarship enabled me to participate in ocean plastic research, mentor, provide tutoring assistance to peers, and earn outstanding grades. It is such an honor to receive this gift and it inspires me to work hard. Your endowment has motivated me to one day be a scholarship donor so that I can pay it forward.”

Juliana Covarrubias is a senior pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Plastics and Composites Engineering at Western Washington University with a minor in Material Science. She graduated with honors from Skagit Valley College with an Associates in Science in June 2019. This summer, Juliana will take part in a weeklong beach cleanup at Katmai National Park with the Ocean Plastic Research Team from Western and Island Trails Network. Upon returning, she will begin a summer internship through WWU partnered with industry leader, Toray. During this internship she will be conducting mild chemical recycling of aerospace grade carbon fiber-epoxy composites to promote sustainability.



WILLIAM DAYTON

2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholar
\$2,000

"I would like to thank the Western Plastics Pioneers for this scholarship. It will prove very helpful in my continued academic pursuits, as it will go towards housing costs and school supplies. Given the troublesome time with COVID as it has disrupted the normal flow of things, I am very excited to go back to campus this fall and greatly appreciate this award!"

William Dayton is a rising senior studying Chemical Engineering at the University of California Davis. Since finishing his junior year, he has become competent in many new principles of engineering such as heat and mass transfer. It affords him a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of polymers and their properties, and he has enjoyed drawing connections between his classroom education to industrial applications.



TAYLOR HOLLCRAFT

2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholar
\$2,000

“My name is Taylor Hollcraft and I would like to thank you for your generous support for furthering my higher education in Plastics and Composites Engineering. When I learned about Western Washington University Huxley College of the Environment’s research in developing methods for recycling ocean plastics, I knew that’s what I wanted to do. Since my last time on campus, I have been accepted into my school’s Plastics and Composites Engineering major and started taking major courses online. I’m also on track to complete both a Material Science and Environmental Science minor. Thank you again for your contribution. I am incredibly grateful to have received this scholarship and am even more motivated to work hard to make a difference in plastics sustainability at Western.”

Taylor Hollcraft is a Junior at Western Washington University majoring in Plastics and Composites Engineering and aims to complete a minor in both Material Science and Environmental Science. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers where she has been meeting specialists in the plastics engineering field and keeping in touch with engineering students at her school while classes have been strictly online during the 2020 Pandemic. Taylor’s passion for environmental science has led her to materials engineering in the hopes to create a more sustainable system for plastics. When she graduates, she hopes to work in research to advance recycling systems and develop new efficient, sustainable plastics.



CALVIN STEPHENS

2021 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholar
\$2,000

“Thank you for selecting me for the Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship and thank you for this opportunity. I am extremely grateful that I became connected to your organization through the SPE Foundation, and I hope that our connection can extend far past just this award. Thank you for supporting my interest in plastics I look forward to getting to know you!”

Calvin Stephens is entering his Junior year at UC Berkeley. He is currently studying Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aerospace Engineering and intended minor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Over his time at Berkeley, he has been participating in an organization called Space Enterprise. Within this organization, he has worked on various rockets, learning a lot about composite structures along the way. In addition, Calvin has continued to manage Recycle for Research, an organization he started while in high school that raises money for Leukemia research through collecting and returning recyclables.



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Thank you