SBME Scholarship for Leadership and Innovation

This scholarship supports graduate and undergraduate students pursuing careers in biomedical engineering who show a commitment to leadership and excel as creative problem-solvers.

2024/25 Award Winner

**Eric Gutierrez-Camacho** is a rising fifth year biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering who is an active member in the CSU Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) student chapter. As the Outreach Director from 2022 to 2023, Eric set out to find low-income schools that would benefit from participating in engaging STEM activities, landing on Greeley-Evans School District 6. As a Hispanic student who grew up in a low-income family and was enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs, Eric knew, firsthand, how important it is to receive the proper resources to get a quality education and encourage students to pursue post-secondary education.

As the Industry Director in 2024-2024, Eric launched BioInnovate, a career expo that had 11 biomedical companies and labs in attendance for students to network with. Eric continues to use his drive to connect students interested in engineering to the resources and connections they need to succeed.

**Gabriela Gritz-Moya** is a rising fifth year biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering student that has been an active member in STEM 4 Kids, recently serving as the President from 2023-2024. An outreach organization out of the Mechanical Engineering department, STEM 4 Kids focuses on giving hands-on STEM opportunities to 4th-8th grade students. We host six events each semester on campus and additional community events with activities like coding robots, catapults and 3D printing.

Spurred by a love of MECH 200, Gabriela and her friends started a small welding group and where they would spend a few hours each week practicing welding, learning together, and providing feedback to help one another improve. Combining art and engineering, Gabriela wants to use her final year to innovate and engineer a better CSU Engineering community.
2023/24 Award Winner

Adrian Deputat is a third-year biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering student. Adrian has been involved in many extra curricular clubs and organizations to continue building up his leadership experience. This includes being the former Leadership VIP and current Philanthropy Chair with Phi Kappa Theta, being a working partner member on the BMES C.A.S.E. project, and being the current president of the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society at CSU. Adrian is a very methodical individual, always looking for ways where he can use his skills as an engineer in training to help make the world a better place.

Abbie Tangen is a fourth-year biomedical engineering and chemical and biological engineering student who is very active in her CSU engineering community. As the current Vice President-Elect and former treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Abbie has made it a priority to create STEM opportunities and continue the conversation of what it means to be a woman in engineering. Abbie’s main goal is to continue this conversation while changing the narrative of what the modern-day engineer looks like. Along with SWE, Abbie has taken on leadership roles in other organizations, including Introduce a Girl to Engineering, Rams Without Borders, and Rams for Change.

2022/23 Award Winner

Joyce Bohn is a third-year biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering student. Having suffered with Type 1 diabetes, Joyce has first-hand experience utilizing medical devices and their benefits. It’s no wonder Joyce has completed three internships with Medtronic, an American medical device company.

Joyce is the president of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society at CSU and has taken the lead for events including Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and Little Shop of Physics Experiment Day. She also presented along with three additional speakers, A Day in the Life of an Intern, explaining members how to apply for internships and providing examples of the type of work involved.
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2021/22 Award Winners

Michelle Hefner (BME+CBE) has served as the president for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) since 2019. She also serves as an Engineering Student Ambassador. Michelle makes a big impact helping other students as an organic chemistry peer tutor and Calculus II learning assistant.

Amy Kiesling (BME+CBE) has served on the executive board of the Biomedical Engineering Society Student Chapter since her first year at CSU and has continued to take on roles with increased responsibility. She is currently the BMES Chapter president and has taken on the challenge for conducting unique virtual events during the COVID crisis. The most memorable being a virtual outreach experienced for middle school students.

2020/21 Award Winners

Michael Truong is a third-year Ph.D. student who, under advisor Dr. Zhijie Wang, is conducting research on right heart failure. He examines the biomechanical mechanisms of, and instructs stem cell therapies for, right heart failure. Truong has a long history of leadership, including founding and actively promoting the mission of Team HBV, a student organization dedicated to hepatitis B virus education at UC Davis. He has also served as the inaugural Graduate Liaison Officer of BMES, actively connecting graduate students with professional development resources and industry members.

Faith Otieno (BME+EE) has consistently contributed in service, innovation, and leadership. One of Faith’s goals is to give back, especially to low-income communities. After high school, she took a gap year to work with her mother on various medical research and fieldwork projects in her home country of Kenya. At CSU, she has helped found the Engineering Entrepreneurship Club and has been involved with the Fall Cleanup service event in which CSU students help local residents clean their yards. To help fund her studies, Faith works 20 hours a week.
2019/20 Award Winner

Sarah Maclean received the SBME Scholarship for Leadership and Innovation. This scholarship was created to support biomedical engineering students who excel as creative problem-solvers and show a commitment to leadership.

Maclean was elected to serve on the BMES Student Chapter executive board in her first semester at CSU. Since then, she has held several executive positions leading up to the role of vice president. In her leadership roles, she created the BMES Faculty Meet and Greet that eventually grew into a very successful networking mixer, bridging the gap between CSU students, faculty, and local industry members. In addition, she led her sorority, Kappa Delta.

2018/19 Award Winner

Natalie Rios serves as the outreach coordinator for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and manages 12 team members. She uses the Gallup Strength Finder curriculum to organize subcommittees based on identified strengths so members can collaborate and thrive. Rios was instrumental in utilizing Slate, CSU’s admission platform, for their annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event registration. Through this platform, SWE can gauge the effectiveness of their outreach to middle school girls by identifying which participants apply to CSU for engineering.

2017/18 Award Winner

Tyler Daniel has demonstrated leadership skills working in the Therapeutic Materials and Biointerfacial Research Laboratory at CSU, attaining his Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America, and serving as a resident assistant on campus. A former Daniels Scholarship recipient, Tyler has also worked every semester, often working multiple jobs. After graduation, he hopes to work in genetics, specifically DNA manipulation, to help cure cancer and other life-long diseases.
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2016/17 Award Winner

Hannah Robinson demonstrated leadership in designing a new lab for students taking machine dynamics. Robinson’s lab allows students to design a four-bar mechanism representing components of the human knee and testing their design on 3D printed bones. In the future, she hopes to work with a medical device company and utilize her background to improve patient care.

2015/16 Award Winner

Hannah Mikelson served as president of the Society of Women Engineers-CSU Chapter and collegiate senator for the Society of Women Engineers-Region I (covering the central region of the U.S.). In addition, she participated in a co-op at Zimmer Biomet, an internship at Osypka Medtec and has accepted a full-time offer to be a quality engineer after she graduates in May 2018.

2014/15 Award Winners

Craig Ewell is a first-generation student who was raised by a single parent and who held various leadership roles on campus. As Craig once posted on social media, “From start to finish, CSU has been nothing but a blessing in my life! I have loved every moment of my time here. I am and will always be a RAM for life!” Craig works as an electronic sales engineer for Phoenix Contact.

Megan Rives is a single mom who is also a first-generation student. Her strong academics, commitment to her professional field, and her ability to overcome life’s obstacles demonstrate the spirit of the SBME Scholarship. Megan spent her summers in college working as an engineering intern at Terumo BCT, Tolmar Inc., and Woodward, Inc. After graduating from CSU, she accepted a mechanical engineering position at Woodward, Inc.