ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DR. ROBERT W. OKEY 2017 SCHOLARSHIP
SPONSORED BY THE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF UTAH

The Dr. Robert W. Okey Scholarship

INTRODUCTION:

The Dr. Robert W. Okey Scholarship was established in honor of a man who dedicated over 50 years of service to the wastewater industry, the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU). Dr. Okey worked in the wastewater industry for many years before obtaining his PhD degree and becoming a professor at the University of Utah. Many people now working in the industry in Utah remember taking classes from him. He authored numerous papers and books and held patents covering various aspects of wastewater treatment. He is fondly remembered for his many unique papers and presentations at the annual conferences and for his participation in furthering the goals and objectives of WEAU.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY:

The Water Environment Association of Utah will provide a $2000 grant to a undergraduate student enrolled in an environmental program, either in engineering or an applicable area of science or technology, at a Utah college or University. A qualified candidate may apply as often as desired for each year the scholarship is offered; however, a candidate can only receive one grant.

Each candidate must complete all of the essay questions assigned. A committee appointed by the WEAU Board will judge the essays. The essays must be received by Wednesday, October 25, 2017. The winner will receive their scholarship funds at the WEAU Mid-year Conference on November 14, 2017.

Completed essays shall be submitted to the WEAU/Scholarship Committee by the due date and may be sent either to the following address or electronically submitted to the email below.

WEAU/Scholarship Committee
Thomas A. Holstrom, P.E.
c/o Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
800 West Central Valley Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Or email Thomas Holstrom at holstromt@cvwrf.org
The Dr. Robert W. Okey
WEAU SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is provided to students enrolled in environmental programs either in engineering or an applicable area of science or technology. The grant will be for $2000.

The grant will be as follows:

One grant will be awarded for undergraduate students that have not reached their last semester of study. The criteria for entering are as follows:

Undergraduate Student:

1. Be a member of the WEAU student chapter. (It’s free, Go to www.wef.org to sign up)
2. Respond to essay questions.
3. Be enrolled for at least 9 credit hours.
4. Provide a statement of career goals and interests.

There are a number of questions to be addressed in the 2017 scholarship competition, as shown on the following page.

The following items must be followed for your scholarship submittal to be considered:

1. Each question listed must be answered.
2. Include a clear statement of each question and response that addresses each question.
3. Provide the sources of special or detailed information included of your response.
4. A full list of sources must be included in a reference section at the end of your submittal.

Undergraduate Student Scholarship Essay Questions

NUTRIENT CONTROLS

The Utah Lake/Jordan River-Farmington Bay/Great Salt Lake aquatic ecosystems are surrounded by the most urbanized lands in the state of Utah and home to nearly 2 million people. Recent summertime algal blooms in Utah Lake have resulted in cyanotoxin formation and public health notices suggesting limited beneficial use and, in summer 2016, public closure of Utah Lake. The Utah Division of Water Quality has pointed to nutrient loading, primarily phosphorus, as a key contributor to formation of the harmful algal blooms (HAB’s).

1. What are harmful algal blooms and what conditions affect their formation?
2. What characteristics of a harmful algal bloom impact public health and how are these characteristics measured and reported?

3. What are the primary sources of nutrient loadings into Utah Lake? How long have these sources been contributing nutrients to the Lake?

4. What nutrient controls are currently in place to control nutrients from the primary sources identified in question 3. above?

5. What future nutrient controls do you foresee to cost-effectively mitigate harmful algal blooms on Utah Lake?