

ICRI 2009 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ICRI established a scholarship program to assist qualified applicants who plan to pursue post-secondary education in undergraduate college, university, and vocational programs directly related to a curriculum of study in concrete, concrete repair, architecture, or engineering studies (structural and civil).

For 2009, ICRI awarded a total of \$3500 to five qualified and deserving applicants. Following is an introduction to these five outstanding students—a little bit about who they are and their plans for the future.



JOEL VANDE BOOM

Throughout his academic career, **Joel Vande Boom** has strived to become the best individual he can be. Vande Boom is a very hard-working, determined, and inspiring student who hopes to someday become the CEO of a construction or engineering company. He is currently a fifth year senior at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and will be receiving dual B.S. degrees in construction management and architectural engineering (with a structural specialty) in May of 2010, along with minors in financial management and math.

Vande Boom interned for Mortenson Construction during the summer as an Assistant Project Engineer and will be working part-time with them starting around the end of January 2010. In addition, he takes part in Habitat for Humanity on free weekends, which has given him the experience of using his abilities to help others.

When he graduates, he hopes to become a great Project Manager for a successful construction or engineering company and eventually work his way up to top management. Throughout his life, Vande Boom was taught that with confidence, motivation, and hard work you can become anything you want and nothing is impossible. This scholarship helps reinforce this belief, which will only lead to further success.



JEREMY ZINDEL

The second scholarship recipient, **Jeremy Zindel**, grew up on a grain and livestock farm outside of Moweaqua, IL, a small, central Illinois town of 2000 people. Throughout high school, he excelled in math and science and, during the summers, he worked for a residential contractor, building and remodeling homes. The combination of these experiences led Zindel to civil engineering, as he was intrigued by the opportunity to apply his intellectual gifts to his interest in construction.

Zindel is attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN, where he will be graduating in May 2010 with a degree in civil engineering. Upon graduation, his aspirations are to pursue a career as a structural engineer. Once employed, he plans to work toward becoming a licensed professional engineer as well as a licensed structural engineer. Down the road, Zindel plans to attend graduate school on a part-time basis to obtain a master's degree in structural engineering.



OMAR DE LEON

Omar De Leon was born in Panama City, Panama, and spent his upbringing in several countries throughout the Caribbean, including Aruba, Grand Cayman, and the Dominican Republic. He returned to Panama to finish high school and graduated valedictorian of his class at the age of 16. He was awarded the Jay F.W. Pearson Scholarship to attend the Honors Program at the University of Miami and is currently pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in civil engineering and environmental engineering.

De Leon is a member of several honor societies, such as Alpha Lambda Delta, Chi Epsilon, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Omicron Delta Kappa. He serves as a University of Miami Ambassador and represents all engineering students as the Engineer Senator in the University of Miami Student Government. De Leon is a leader in several organizations, such as the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and is also extremely involved within the Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering Department as an undergraduate research assistant, teaching assistant, and statics tutor. After graduation, De Leon wishes to pursue a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering in hopes of one day working as a Project Manager for large-scale sustainable construction projects.

Scholarship recipient **Katie Horner** is a senior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), Kansas City, MO, in the civil engineering program. She is the current President of the UMKC Student Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and a four-year member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Horner's goals include obtaining a master's degree in engineering management, becoming a licensed professional engineer, and one day owning her own engineering firm. Horner enjoys running, biking, playing basketball, and spending time with her five-year-old son.

The final 2009 scholarship recipient, **Amber Harley**, is currently a senior at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. She has worked extremely hard during her time in college and her goals keep getting more ambitious as she gets older and learns more. Being a civil engineering major, Harley feels like she can eventually make a difference in our county as our aged infrastructure continues to need repair. She is glad she is in the generation that will get to tackle that challenge.

Harley worked this previous summer as an intern at an international engineering consulting firm in Kansas City. She is taking the GRE this summer and plans to take the fundamental engineering exam during her senior year. Amber will graduate in May 2010 with a BS in civil engineering and hopes to attend graduate school for civil engineering at the University of Kansas and participate in one of the several research endeavors the university is conducting.