

ICRI 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) has established a scholarship program to assist qualified applicants who plan to pursue a 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 2010, ICRI awarded a total of \$4000 to four deserving applicants. The following is an introduction to these four outstanding students—a little bit about who they are and their plans for the future.



DERRICK DONEGAN

Derrick Donegan grew up in the small town of Waverly, TN. He joined the U.S. Air Force immediately after high school, where he learned about construction. Donegan served for 9 years in the military and traveled to many different countries before the end of his enlistment. He then returned home to Tennessee, where he has held various estimator and project management positions.

Donegan is currently enrolled full-time in the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Concrete Contracting Program at Middle Tennessee State University and will graduate in December 2011 with a bachelor's degree. He also has a part-time job as an estimator for a general contractor that performs a significant amount of work at the local VA Medical Center. Donegan finds his role interesting because he learns not only about construction but also the specifics involved with government work and hospitals. After graduation, Donegan plans to continue working with his current employer or explore other options in the construction and concrete industry.



COLBY HIETBRINK

The second scholarship recipient is Colby Hietbrink from Tulsa, OK. Hietbrink attended Oklahoma State University from 1994 to 1999 and graduated with a BS in business management and marketing. He had been working in the construction industry for approximately 8 years when the market took a downturn and he was laid off. Hietbrink decided to start his own company. He obtained his General Contractor's license in North Carolina and began working mostly off a referral basis, enjoying reasonable success; however, he wanted something a little better for his family. The decision to return to school was difficult, but one that Hietbrink knew he would not regret.

Hietbrink returned to school, studying civil engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) and pursuing a master's degree in structural engineering. He's been a top performer in all of his classes and currently has a GPA of 3.687. In addition to obtaining a spot on the Dean's List, Hietbrink was recently invited to join Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society at UNCC. Hietbrink holds memberships in a variety of local clubs as well as the position of President of his local ASCE student chapter. In addition to operating his business, he is currently working part-time with

S&ME, a geotechnical and environmental engineering firm. After graduating in May 2012, Hietbrink would like to obtain a position with a design-build engineering firm in a design role.



JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

Third on the list of recipients is José Hernández. Born in Guatemala, Hernández and his mother moved to Florida when he was 12 to find better educational opportunities. Ten years later, he's entering his final semester at the University of Florida, pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Hernández plans to apply to graduate school to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering.

For the past two consecutive summers, Hernández has interned at Cardno Tampa Bay Engineering (TBE) in Clearwater, FL. He's been part of the structural group at TBE and has worked on a number of different projects, including the design of bridges for the city of St. Petersburg, the I-75 bridge widening for the city of Fort Myers, and the design of retaining and noise walls for the city of Tampa. After school, he would like to work at a design firm to work on bridges. Eventually, Hernández wants to go out into the field and one day own his own bridge construction and restoration business.

The final 2010 scholarship recipient, Alexis Ludena, was recently accepted into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a double minor in architecture and business management. Ludena plans to start his own consulting firm after receiving his degree. While practicing his new profession, he plans to use all that he has learned from his culturally diverse upbringing to efficiently provide engineering solutions in different contexts. Ludena spent his entire childhood in Peru and the last decade in the primarily Hispanic areas of Miami, FL. He hopes his Hispanic heritage will help him relate to and understand locals when working within the Latin community.

After graduation, he plans to focus on helping others economically and environmentally. Ludena wants to provide affordable housing while optimizing resources and labor as well as providing more jobs in construction to those who need them the most. Ludena plans to create a charity fund to help local communities with housing and basic survival materials. Ludena hopes that his actions will impact the world. Just as he did in high school, he plans to participate in fundraisers that help reconstruct villages in other countries by supplying water and housing.

2011 ICRI SCHOLARSHIP

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