



NAC Press Release

For immediate release
June 9, 2026

Six Students Selected for Prestigious Academy Scholarships!

Austin, TX — The National Academy of Construction (NAC) is pleased to announce the awarding of six prestigious NAC scholarships to exceptional students for the upcoming 2026-27 academic year. This marks the seventh year of the NAC Scholarship Program, demonstrating the Academy's ongoing commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders in the construction industry. The program will distribute a total of \$60,000 to the deserving recipients this year.

“The NAC Scholarship Committee once again had the privilege of reviewing an outstanding group of applicants from universities across the country,” said Mike Garvin, chair of the committee. “The selection process is rigorous, and the quality of this year’s candidates made the committee’s work both challenging and rewarding. These students represent the future of the construction industry through their academic achievements, leadership, and commitment to the profession. I would like to thank our committee members for their dedication to the review process and all of the faculty, industry professionals, and NAC members who support these exceptional students.”

“This scholarship will go directly toward my tuition and this support carries real weight and will serve as a reminder to make the most of every opportunity in front of me. I am deeply grateful for the support that this NAC scholarship has made possible,” said one of this year's recipients.

“Looking back at the NAC scholarship program since its inception in 2020, I believe that this is the strongest group of applicants we have received. I want to thank all the NAC members who have written letters of recommendations for the candidates, those who have donated to support these scholarships, and thanks to the great work of the Scholarship Committee in performing a very difficult task of selecting these six among the 29 applicants,” says Edd Gibson, NAC President/CEO.

The 2026 NAC Scholarship Recipients:

Lindsay Baer, a rising fourth-year student studying Architectural Engineering with a concentration in Construction Management at Penn State University (PSU), has been awarded the 2026 *Wayne A. Crew NAC Scholarship*. Lindsay is currently pursuing Penn State’s integrated bachelor’s and master’s degree program and serves as the President of the Students Partnering for Achieving Construction Excellence organization (S:PACE). In this role, she has helped organize events such as an annual site trip to Washington, D.C., as well as the first Women in



Construction Event at PSU. She has also been involved for the past three years with the Student Sustainability Advisory Council. This group works directly with university staff and leadership, to support sustainability initiatives across campus. Lindsay has completed two previous internships with ARCO Design Build as a Design Build Project Manager Intern.

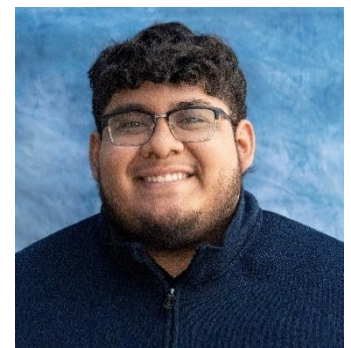
Looking ahead, Lindsay plans to become a project manager for a general contractor that values growth, sustainability, and continuous learning. She is especially interested in lean construction principles and their ability to reduce waste while improving efficiency. Lindsay believes these approaches are essential to the future of the construction industry. Ultimately, she hopes to contribute to projects that make a meaningful impact, while continuing to learn and support the teams she works with along the way. She is excited to enter a field where every day brings new challenges. Lindsay hopes to one day give back by mentoring students and encouraging more women to pursue careers in construction.

Reagan Fields, the 2026 recipient of the *Paul F. Boulos NAC Scholarship*, is a student in the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech pursuing a B.S. in Civil Engineering alongside an accelerated M.S. in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Construction Engineering & Management. Her academic and professional interests focus on construction management, project delivery methods, and large-scale infrastructure development. Reagan has maintained a 4.0 GPA while serving in leadership roles within organizations such as ASCE and Tau Beta Pi. She also serves as an ambassador for her department, supporting current and prospective students. Her experience also includes internships in project management and infrastructure-related work, where she has developed strong interests in coordination, leadership, and problem-solving within the construction industry.



Following graduation, Reagan plans to pursue a career in construction project management with the goal of leading complex infrastructure and building projects from planning through completion. Long term, she hopes to return to academia to teach construction management and mentor future students entering the construction industry.

Alexis Figueroa-Baltazar, a recent graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), has been awarded the 2026 *Robert and Regina Prieto NAC 25th Silver Jubilee Scholarship*. This summer, he will be joining Suffolk Construction as a Project Engineer through their Career Start Program while simultaneously pursuing a Master's degree at FGCU in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Construction Management, with the goal of completing research projects and giving back by mentoring future Construction Management students.



Throughout his studies, he has pursued a wide range of leadership and academic endeavors where he embodied his core values of collaboration, continuous improvement, and a commitment to excellence. Additionally, he authored three conference research papers covering AI, safety, and supply chain management in construction. He has served as team captain for four construction management competitions (ABC twice, ASC Preconstruction, and Roofing Alliance) and held the role of president across three student organizations (Sigma Lambda Chi, the Associated Builders and Contractors FGCU Student Chapter, and the Design-Build Institute of America FGCU Student Chapter), where he focused on creating networking opportunities, site tours, service learning, and professional development experiences for his peers. He also completed five internships spanning the subcontractor, residential, and commercial areas. These experiences culminated in being honored as the 2026 FGCU U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering Overall Undergraduate Student of the Year, finishing at the top of his class not only within his major, but also across all majors in the College of Engineering.

Michele Olivia LaTour is a current junior studying Civil Engineering at Clarkson University with concentrations in Structural Engineering and Construction Engineering Management and a minor in Architectural Facilities Engineering. Michele serves as President of Clarkson University Women’s Club Basketball, Vice President of the Pre-Health Society, and volunteers with the Clarkson University Food Pantry and FIRST Robotics. She is also an active member of organizations including the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers.



Michele’s passion for construction began at an early age working alongside her father in his preservation and restoration company, Prestige Preservation and Restoration, where she has been involved since 2020. From hands-on construction experience to helping build cabins as a teenager, these opportunities inspired her to pursue a career in construction and engineering. Looking ahead, Michele plans to expand the family business by incorporating sustainable building practices, emerging technologies, and innovative design while preserving the craftsmanship and integrity that define the company’s work.

Nathan Vega is a rising senior studying Civil Engineering (Building Science) at the University of Southern California. As a first-generation college student, Nathan has always approached his education with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. At USC, he had the privilege of competing in the Associated Schools of Construction Competition in Reno, NV, and leading teams as Captain of USC CMAA's Mixed-Use team and ASCE's Timber-Strong Design Build team. He also gained hands-on industry experience through a preconstruction internship with Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company, which he will be returning to this summer for his second internship, this time stepping into field operations on a large and exciting commercial project for a client who “maybe develops our iPhones...”



Looking ahead, Nathan is committed to pursuing a career that integrates design, engineering, and construction to create projects that are both technically innovative and meaningful to the communities they serve. Also, a fun fact is that this fall he will be participating in USC's GlobalXP program in Sydney, Australia, for 2 weeks where he plans to study how the city approaches sustainable urban infrastructure and community-centered design!

Caitlyn Vos recently completed her third year at Illinois Institute of Technology pursuing a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering, and master's in construction engineering and management. She has taken every opportunity to immerse herself in hands-on projects by captaining Illinois Tech's Steel Bridge team, which recently took third place in Stiffness, and second place in both Lightness and Structural Efficiency at their regional competition this year. Caitlyn serves as Treasurer of Illinois Tech's student chapters of Chi Epsilon civil engineering honors society and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).



She completed a summer internship in both 2025 and 2026 at Dubak Electrical Group, where she made it her goal to visit as many job sites and immerse herself in as much of the industry as possible. Outside of the construction world, you can find Caitlyn teaching cello and violin at the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute, and performing in the pit orchestra for musicals done by community theaters in the Chicago suburbs.

The Scholarship Committee for 2026 is made up of Mike Garvin, Chair, Andy Ciancia, Vice Chair, and members Wayne Crew, Anne Ellis, Evelyn Fujimoto, Tim Green, Mark Hastak, Pat Natale, Mike Rigsby, Sarah Slaughter, Jill Tietjen, Kumar Topudurti, Hans Van Winkle, and Dan Whiteman. The NAC scholarship program is in its sixth year and has awarded 60 scholarships worth \$289k.

###

The National Academy of Construction, established in 1999, is an organization of industry leaders—construction users, constructors, engineers, architects, consultants, attorneys, sureties, editors, and academics—who have made outstanding, life-long contributions to the construction industry. In addition to honoring the personal contributions of its members, the Academy provides its leadership and expertise to a variety of organizations, governmental and nongovernmental, to help transform the industry to build a better nation, fostering collaboration, future improvement, and building the next generation of leaders. For more information on this release, contact the NAC Office at NAC@UTexas.edu.