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New Jersey’s Union Construction Industry Surpasses \$1 Million in College Scholarships—Again

EDISON, NJ – On average, parents spend nearly \$1,000 on supplies, clothing and furnishings to send their child off to college. At the same time, they’re making tuition payments. For some, help came this year from New Jersey’s union construction industry, which awarded \$1,257,500 to 320 students in 2017 and many millions of dollars to thousands of students over the past two decades. It is the second consecutive year the industry has awarded more than \$1 million.

The scholarships come from trade associations whose members are the construction companies that hire union craftworkers – and from the unions themselves. They contribute tuition for degrees ranging from engineering to biology, finance to veterinary medicine, international business to criminal justice to applied mathematics. Many of the contractors offer summer internships for which the students are paid in scholarship funds. The associations and unions raise the money each year primarily from member donations and fundraising activities.

This year, the scholarship checks flew out to colleges in New Jersey – Rutgers, New Jersey City University, William Patterson University, NJIT, Rowan, the County Colleges and many others. They traveled to Cornell, Vassar, New York University, University of Rochester, Clark Atlanta, Stony Brook University, and the Universities of Delaware, Pittsburgh, South Carolina...the list goes on and on.

Many of the students are the children and grandchildren of union craftworkers and of the project managers, estimators, support staff and owners of union construction companies from every corner of the state. Others are students in construction-related college programs who apply for tuition help through the industry. Still others are summer interns hired by union contractors, gaining hands-on experience while receiving tuition money.

“We applaud both the students for their dedication to hard work that has earned them so many achievements, and for their contributions to their communities,” stated Jack Kocsis, CEO of Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey. “We also applaud their parents for their support and guidance of the leaders of the next generation.”

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New Jersey's Union Construction Industry Awards More Than \$1 Million in College Scholarships

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Scholarships awarded in 2017 from the union construction industry of New Jersey:

Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ): 5 scholarships totaling \$50,000 and 2 internship scholarships totaling \$6,000

Building Contractors Association of South Jersey: 4 scholarships totaling \$22,000

Construction Industry Advancement Program (CIAP): 3 scholarships totaling \$4,500 and 42 internship scholarships totaling \$126,000

Drywall & Interior Systems Association of NJ (DISCA): 16 scholarships totaling \$80,000

Floor Covering Institute of New Jersey: 1 scholarship totaling \$2,500

The Masonry Contractors of New Jersey Endowed Scholarship Fund at NJIT College of Architecture and Design: 4 scholarships totaling \$6,000, plus a study abroad fund that awarded 11 scholarships totaling \$13,500

New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association: 30 scholarships totaling \$15,000

New Jersey Steel Association: 13 scholarships totaling \$24,000

Utility & Transportation Contractors of New Jersey (UTCA): 5 scholarships totaling \$38,000

International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Locals 4 & 5: 4 scholarships totaling \$12,000

Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters: 30 scholarships totaling \$400,000 plus 116 stipends totaling \$29,000

Dockbuilders Local Union 1556: 11 scholarships totaling \$110,000

International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental & Reinforcing Iron Workers, Local No. 399: 3 scholarships totaling \$9,000

Laborers International Union of North America (New Jersey): 11 scholarships totaling \$220,000

Operating Engineers Local 825: 9 scholarships totaling \$90,000

About ACCNJ

ACCNJ represents union general building contractors, construction managers, and heavy, highway, site development and utility contractors in New Jersey. Members are responsible for billions of dollars in commercial, industrial, heavy, highway, utility and institutional construction projects annually and employ tens of thousands of skilled union craftworkers statewide. The Association is committed to raising the standards of construction in New Jersey through quality, integrity, skill and responsibility.



PHOTO CAPTION:

Pictured here are the ACCNJ Scholarship recipients at the ACCNJ awards event on June 7, 2017, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. From left: Michael Martello, a student at Manhattan College; Eve Hennebery, attending the University of Pittsburgh; Sonja Meberg, the recipient of the Floor Covering Institute Scholarship, attending Cornell University; Neethu Thottakara, attending Stony Brook University; and Kieran Farrell, attending the University of South Carolina.

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