CREATE A LEGACY

EREF Named Scholarships
INSPIRE LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION
EREF named scholarships provide a way to give back by supporting the education of students that will become the next generation of waste industry professionals. Scholarships are awarded by EREF to recognize excellence in master’s and doctoral waste management research and education.

**YOU Can Make a Difference**

Donations to the EREF Scholarship Program help young students develop expertise of solid waste issues while pursuing their degrees. This provides a young mind with familiarity of the industry you are a part of. Supporting students via a non-profit charity such as EREF provides positive public relations for you/your organization, as well as a way to give back to your industry.
What Makes EREF Scholarships UNIQUE?

• Typically scholarships provide a specific amount of money to a recipient. EREF scholarships provide a monthly stipend from the time of the award until the student graduates.

• EREF provides travel support to conferences and presentations.

• EREF integrates scholars into industry events such as conferences and fundraisers and facilitates visits to companies within the industry.

• Scholars are required to work on projects related to solid waste issues. Thus, their efforts parallel the interests of the solid waste field.

• 100% of all money designated towards an EREF scholarship will fund that scholarship. EREF’s operating expenses are covered by the money raised by the organization’s fundraisers. There are absolutely no overhead costs involved with donations to the EREF scholarship program.
Getting STARTED with a Named Scholarship

Starting a scholarship involves 5 simple steps:

STEP 1 Determine what scholarship you’d like to establish.
This determines the amount of money needed to support the named scholarship:
• Master’s Scholarships require a lump sum endowment of $150,000, or annual support of $10,000/year.
• Doctoral Scholarships require a lump sum endowment of $250,000, or annual support of $17,000/year. Note that monetary support for doctoral scholarships can also be used to support Master’s Scholarships, as desired.

STEP 2 Decide on an endowment or annual named support.
If annual support is provided in lieu of a lump sum endowment, a 5-year pledge totaling the annual amount noted above must be made in order to secure naming rights. In contrast, lump sum endowments allow for naming rights to be retained for as long as endowed funds remain sufficient to generate the necessary income to support the student.

STEP 3 Set up any restrictions that you may prefer.
Restrictions define how awards can be made to the students. Most named scholarships have no restrictions; however, in some instances our donors have elected to target their support to a particular area or group. For example, one could designate scholarships be awarded only to U.S. students, to women, to minorities or to students enrolled in Environmental Engineering programs.

STEP 4 Complete a pledge form.
Filling out the pledge form is what formally initiates the scholarship and provides various details on how EREF will manage your financial support and the scholarship.

STEP 5 Let us do the rest!
EREF staff will take it from here, but the next step would be a formal press release. There may be an invitation to present a check in front of the industry at one of EREF’s fundraising events, or other activities that ensure others know you’ve left a bit of your legacy with future generations.
As a child, Susan Delong would see a garbage can full of trash and wonder if there was a better way to manage it. These wonderings sparked an interest in solid waste issues and led her to major in Molecular and Cell Biology and Environmental Science at the University of California at Berkley. She went on to receive her M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin where she learned about EREF from a colleague in her post-doctoral lab group. Susan applied for and received an EREF Scholarship in 2006 which funded her research entitled “Development of a Targeted Method for Sequencing Biodegradation Genes.” Susan now serves as Assistant Professor of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Colorado State University. Her current research focuses on applying molecular biology tools to improve environmental biotechnologies (anaerobic digestion and microbial fuel cells) to generate energy from waste. Susan credits EREF with providing the support and connections for not only her past research, but her present research as well.

“EREF provides valuable funding for students, fantastic industry connections, and represents a terrific group of people!”
What happens to the money once it’s donated?

The financial support provided to establish a named scholarship, once given to EREF, is placed in an investment portfolio under the designation of ‘restricted’ funds. This means that these funds can ONLY be used by EREF to support the named scholarship for which the money was intended. The donor has the ability to apply restrictions, determining how the money can be used.

For example, a donor could designate that only income derived from the principal amount donation can be used to support scholarship recipients, which means that the principal stays in EREF’s investment portfolio. Alternately, a donor could designate that income derived from the principal should be used preferentially but that, if needed, the principal could also be used to support scholarship recipients.

Are there tax benefits?

Because EREF is a 501(c)3 charity, donations made to support or endow EREF scholarships are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. However, to maximize your tax benefits it is recommended that you speak with a tax professional. EREF staff will be happy to work with you and/or your tax professional to ensure you have the knowledge to set up an arrangement that maximizes your tax benefit.

How do scholarships get awarded? Do I have a say in who gets my scholarship?

EREF publicizes its scholarship opportunities to environmental programs at academic institutions worldwide. Students who are or will be enrolled as full-time graduate students and whose research topic relates to solid waste are eligible to apply. There is one deadline annually that occurs in the spring of each year. Completed applications submitted by students are initially reviewed by technical staff to verify eligibility,
ensure their research topic fits with EREF’s mission and to determine whether or not they will be competitive for an award. Applications are then submitted to a Scholarship Committee, which consists of EREF Board members and individuals who are key donors to the program.

The Scholarship Committee develops a short list of applications that are then recommended for funding to the EREF Board of Directors. Once approved by the Board, individuals or companies who have provided support in the form of named scholarships can, if they choose, have an opportunity to pick which of the awardees may receive the honor of their named scholarship. However, if you desire a more ‘hands off’ approach (which is typical), EREF will be happy to designate a scholar for your named scholarship.
CURRENT Named EREF Scholarships

Fiessinger Doctoral Scholarship

Francois Fiessinger dedicated his professional life to furthering international research and technology development efforts in the areas of waste and water management. Francois was one of the founders of EREF in 1994. He served on the Board of Directors from its inception until he passed away in 1997. Francois was a visionary who believed in science and engineering as vehicles for improving the quality of our environment and our lives.

"Francois fell in love with innovation and the American entrepreneurial spirit while studying engineering at Rutgers University. At EREF, Francois tapped his natural enthusiasm and intellectual rigor to champion environmental research and education cooperation between European and American companies. His dedication is still honored today by the EREF Fiessinger Scholarship."

Henry Saint Bris, Senior Vice President, SUEZ Environnement DRIS2D

Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Master’s Scholarship

Bob Stearns, Chairman and CoFounder of SCS Engineers, joined the EREF Board of Directors in 1999 and served as Chairman from 2004–2005. At SCS, he directed or served in a review capacity on many of the firm’s solid waste management-related projects. Under his leadership SCS grew to more than 500 employees located in 9 regional offices throughout the United States. Following his retirement in 2006, Bob continued as SCS Chairman of the Board focusing on strategic planning and acquisitions. In 2007 EREF awarded the first Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Master’s Scholarship, which was established to expand EREF’s successful doctoral-level scholarship program.

“I worked with Bob for 38 years, and will always think of him as my mentor. From all those years of working together, I learned of Bob’s passion for the environmental industry. He found the perfect channel for that passion in EREF. He was particularly proud of EREF’s research and scholarship programs. SCS is pleased to have established an EREF scholarship in Bob’s name. I know how profoundly important the EREF scholarship program was to him."

Jim Walsh, President and CEO, SCS Engineers
Robert J. Riethmiller, chairman of PTR Baler and Compactor, served on the EREF Board as the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Riethmiller’s grandfather, also Bob Riethmiller, began working for PTR in 1911, and purchased it in 1929; since then it has been a family-run business. PTR is a fourth generation, family-owned company that manufactures, installs and services balers and compactors in all 50 states and sells internationally. Now retired, Riethmiller worked in the waste industry for over 50 years.

“PTR’s longstanding support of EREF comes from the belief that it is critical to invest in scholars who will make a difference in the environment and their communities. We are proud of our partnership and look forward to seeing the continued success that the foundation provides for our industry.”

Michael Savage, President and CEO, PTR Baler and Compactor Company

Ice River Springs is an Ontario-based company that makes bottles, caps and packages, and packages spring water, purified water and distilled water. The company strives to constantly innovate finding new ways to recycle, reduce energy consumption and minimize waste. Ice River Springs is the only beverage company in North America to operate a closed loop system that reclaims plastic from used containers and produces 100% recycled bottles along with filling and distribution.

“The Ice River Springs Master’s Scholarship for Sustainability was created to promote recycling, reduce the amount of material being landfilled and decrease the carbon footprint by emphasizing plastics recycling. EREF funds the scientific research behind the technology that can make a true environmental impact, and this fits our corporate values.”

Sandy Gott, Executive Vice President and CoOwner, Ice River Springs

Bryan Staley received an EREF scholarship for his research entitled “Changes in Microbial Community Structure in Solid Waste Decomposition.” During his time as an EREF scholar, Bryan was invited to present his research in front of the EREF Board of Directors. While considering a post doc at Northwestern University, he received a job offer as the Vice President of Research at EREF. When EREF CEO, Michael Cagney, retired Bryan was promoted to his current role as CEO and President of the foundation.

“Looking back, I can’t imagine a better career path or industry to serve than the waste industry. Had it not been for the EREF scholarship and the opportunity to share my research, I would not be where I am today.”

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Garbageman’s Invitational Master’s Scholarship

The Garbageman’s Invitational was founded in 2010 by Kerry Holmes (Vice President of Sales, Consolidated Fabricators), Mike Melideo (Owner, Consolidated Fabricators) and Ray Burke (Vice President, Clean Energy). These three men set out to create a unique annual networking event for their customers and prospects in the solid waste and recycling industry throughout the United States and Canada. The sponsors of the Garbageman’s Invitational felt strongly that there should be an element of “giving back” to the industry. 100% of any donations made to EREF through the Garbageman’s Invitational fund graduate students pursuing excellence in solid waste management research and education.

“As the leader in solid waste research and education, EREF was an easy choice as the charity to benefit from the event. EREF, with its presence throughout North America, is well aligned with the Garbageman’s Invitational’s goal to attract more industry leaders throughout the United States and Canada.”

Kerry Holmes, VP of Sales, Consolidated Fabricators

Carl J. Apicella Scholarship

Carl Apicella is a strong supporter of EREF and plays an important role in EREF’s fundraisers. Carl has over 23 years of experience in the solid waste and environmental industry, and proven expertise in the operations and general management of solid waste landfills.

“EREF is the one organization that really focuses on giving back to the environmental industry. I’ve been blessed to have worked with so many great people and companies over the last 25 years; I wanted to give back to the solid waste industry and supporting EREF is a perfect way to accomplish that.”

Carl Apicella, President, American Environmental Group, Ltd.

Evergreen Surety Bond Scholarship

Founded specifically to serve the needs of the waste industry and contractors who need payment and performance bonds, Evergreen National Indemnity Company (Evergreen) has become an industry leader in surety bonds. Evergreen was one of the first firms to tackle the requirements of Subtitle D and is frequently called upon to give recommendations to regulators and rating agencies on surety issues.

“Ever since the United States Congress passed requirements to raise the standards of landfill design in 1993 in the waste industry, our focus has been on how we can help organizations in the industry improve. EREF’s scholarship program ensures that the next generation of the waste industry will have the knowledge and expertise needed to be successful.”

Daniel J. Clark, Evergreen National Indemnity Company
Waste Industries Scholarship Honoring Lonnie C. Poole, Jr.

Lonnie C. Poole, Jr., one of EREF’s founders and currently a Director Emeritus, is the founder of Raleigh-based Waste Industries USA, Inc. Lonnie, who grew up on a farm in North Carolina, was the first in his family to attend college. After graduating with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University, he served as a pilot in the U.S. Army for three years, and then returned home to earn his MBA at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He then found success in the business world, excelling as both a sales manager and an engineer. In 1970 Lonnie founded Waste Industries, a non-hazardous solid waste services company, which now serves more than 1.25 million customers across five states. “Lonnie Poole, Jr., is first and foremost an outdoorsman. Whether he is hunting, fishing or just walking property, the outdoors is home. Growing up on a farm and selling produce to put himself through college, he has always carried a great respect for our environment. In 1970, he founded Waste Industries in order to develop safer and more environmentally sound ways to manage solid waste. While serving as the Chairman of NWRA’s predecessor EIA, he recognized that privately-funded environmental research was lacking in the area of solid waste. So he teamed up with several other solid waste professionals to found and fund the Environmental Research & Education Foundation. Today his vision lives on through the generous contributions to EREF from companies and individuals who share his passion.”

Ven Poole, Chairman and CEO, Waste Industries

Reinhart Master’s Scholarship

Debbie Reinhart, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE is a Pegasus Professor and Assistant Vice President for Research and Commercialization at the University of Central Florida. From 2011-2013 she served as the Environmental Engineering Program Manager at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. She received her graduate degrees in Environmental Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to joining UCF, she served as a consulting engineer for companies in Atlanta and was chief of the research & development division of the Bureau of Pollution Control in that city. She is currently a member of EREF’s Board of Directors and Research Council.

Debbie has contributed to the advancement of environmental engineering and science professions through her service to professional organizations, higher education, and mentorship. She has been particularly effective at mentoring under-represented engineering scholars. Debbie is most known for her work with bioreactor landfills which produced operational, monitoring, and design information, as well as the first text on the topic. The Reinhart Master’s Scholarship is aimed at funding female environmental engineering students. “This scholarship was created by me and my husband Richard to encourage women to pursue engineering careers in the waste industry. I remember how much similar awards meant to me as an under-represented engineering student when I was in college.”

Debra R. Reinhart, Ph.D., P.E., Pegasus Professor and Assistant VP for Research, University of Central Florida
EREF scholarships foster the **PROMISING FUTURES** of deserving and exceptional students. Through a scholarship commitment, donors have a **LASTING IMPACT** on today’s students and the promise of their future careers, along with long-term research and development visions for the solid waste industry.

**LEARN MORE:**
919.861.6876 OR EREFDN.ORG

The mission of the Environmental Research & Education Foundation is to fund and direct scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve.