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For Immediate Release

NHA awards two students scholarships to pursue hydro careers

Thomas Decker and Nicole Peterson named 2014 awardees of Past Presidents' Legacy Scholarship

Washington, D.C. (April 29, 2014) – The National Hydropower Association awarded two students scholarships to pursue degrees in environmental engineering this afternoon during its annual conference held in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Decker and Nicole Peterson were each awarded \$2,500 through NHA's prestigious Past Presidents' Legacy Scholarship program, which invests in students who are pursuing educations in fields that set them up for successful careers in the hydropower industry.

Decker is a State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry student whose education and work with micro-hydroelectric projects in Central and South America has fostered a desire and passion to become involved in the hydropower industry.

Peterson is pursuing her degree at University of Wyoming with an interest in working in various aspects of developing small hydropower, including finance, policy, and technology.

"NHA is very lucky to have two extraordinarily bright students with their eyes trained on a future in our industry," said NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci. "Giving students with fresh ideas for a growing industry the opportunity to succeed is exactly what we set out to do when we created the scholarship. I hope to see both Nicole and Thomas back here at the NHA conference in a few years as hydro professionals."

NHA established the Past Presidents' Legacy Scholarship in 2008 to contribute to the next generation of industry leaders by helping them complete their degrees. Through donations from NHA's previous presidents and other contributors, the scholarship serves as a legacy for the hydropower industry.

"Through this scholarship, NHA's leadership is building a bridge to the next generation of hydropower innovators," said Church Ciocci. "The scholarship also helps the hydropower industry ensure that the country will have a pool of strong, dynamic engineers and scientists to help address the needs of the 21st century."

To qualify for the Past President's Legacy Scholarship, applicants must be full-time juniors, seniors, or grad students with a 3.0 grade-point average at an accredited college, or have the equivalent average at an accredited vocational technical school. All applicants must be U.S. citizens and legal residents.

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