



## SPRING 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

#### **MAKENNA GITCHELL**



I was born in Orcutt, California, and have grown up on the Central Coast since. I loved my small town growing up and never thought I would go to college in San Luis Obispo, only 35 miles from my childhood home.

Growing up with five older brothers allowed me to witness their college experiences before starting my own. I knew from a young age that I loved building and problem solving, and thought I wanted to follow my brother's path of being an engineer. However, after seeing how much desk work his job required, I realized I needed a career with more social interaction and involvement in the field. When I was checking course catalogs, I came across construction management and knew I had found the perfect career for me.

Since choosing Cal Poly's construction management program, my three years of courses and internships have ignited my love for this industry. I am always looking to expand my knowledge and experiences. I strive to embrace the "Learn by Doing" mentality at Cal Poly, while getting involved in activities such as teaching a BIM class and competing in the ASC competitions.

I hope to use my accumulated knowledge and passion for building to become a respected superintendent in the commercial sector. I am passionate about increasing the number of women in construction and hope to set an example for other young women to pursue this industry.

#### **LAUREN MENDOZA**



I am originally from the Inland Empire area in southern California, and I loved art all my life. My love for art became more prominent in high school due to my interest in theme parks. I initially started my pursuit of art by enrolling in a couple of CAD classes in high school. This was when my passion for architecture flourished. I wanted to use a technical skill like architecture to bring stories, movies and artwork to life for people to experience for themselves instead of only looking through a screen.

After leaving high school and attending Mt. San Antonio Community College, I wanted to become a licensed architect because I felt that earning those credentials would be the only way to achieve my goals. However, once I transferred to UCLA to pursue my bachelor's in architectural studies, I found people and organizations with similar interests to mine. I discovered that I could use my love of art and architecture together and still make a career out of it by branching into the entertainment design industry or even film, to do things like set design or location scouting.

My current goals in life now are to work within the themed entertainment design industry by designing more immersive and mind-blowing theme parks that encapsulate people in a new world. Becoming a Disney Imagineer is just one of the many things I want to achieve in life. My biggest aspiration is to build or develop theme parks all around the world that transport people to another place where they can enjoy themselves and have an unforgettable experience.

### **EVILIO OSORIO**



I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala. At the age of 15, I left my place of birth and family in search of the American dream. With the support of my family in the United States, I was able to attend Vanden High School in Fairfield, California. The school is located near Travis Air Force base, and it was during my high school years that I developed an admiration for the men and women who serve in the military. Upon graduation, I decided that it was time for me to give back to my new country and joined the United States Navy. The time I spent in the military taught me how to be disciplined, respectful and, most importantly, a leader.

Ever since I can remember, I had a passion for building. I think it all started when I received a Tonka dump truck for my fifth birthday. According to my mother, I spent all summer building roads

and bridges in the mud. From playing in the dirt to performing residential remodels to pursuing a career in construction management, my passion for construction has always motivated me to work hard and learn as much as I can from every experience. Today I am a senior at California State University Fresno, and I hope to graduate in the spring

Upon graduation, I would like to enter the construction industry as a field engineer and work my way up to become a construction manager. A wise person once told me that a good construction manager must have experience in the field, scheduling, estimating, and material procurement and documentation. My goal is to learn all these aspects of construction and one day start my own construction firm.

#### **ETHAN WOOL**



I was born and raised in Austin, Texas. I'm the youngest of three children of two loving parents. My parents taught me how to be resourceful and to always believe in myself and my dreams. From an early age, I learned from my father how to do repairs around the house. I resisted these learning opportunities many times throughout my youth. As I've grown, I realized that those lessons have paid off, while learning how to navigate the real world. These lessons from my father were not just teachings in how to swing a hammer and hit a nail, so to speak, but how to learn to do new things that broaden opportunities.

I started my college career with interest in learning the design-and-build skills for sustainable infrastructure systems and learning how to best manage our natural resources as we face increasing climate change. I wanted to help cities and people become more sustainable in their daily lives. My choice to focus on

construction management was an easy choice for me — specifically, when thinking about American infrastructure across the country that needs a lot of work, and I'm excited to enlist myself to improve it. As much as I enjoy designing during my off time, I am much more interested in helping with building and construction, keeping in mind the big picture and end goal, whatever the project may be.

My future goals include working as a project manager for water/wastewater development projects, building renewable energy systems, or rebuilding bridges, dams and water pipelines. All these systems and technologies are vital to the healthy functioning of society, and it is my sincere desire to make life better for as many people as possible. Whatever I end up doing and working for, I hope to be implementing sustainable and efficient technologies to build the systems that will take us into the future.

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