Burrell awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – June 29, 2016 – Derek Burrell has been awarded a 2016 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics for his potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.

Burrell is an undergraduate student at Michigan Technological University working toward a BS in electrical engineering with a concentration in photonics. He has academic and industrial experience in the fabrication and testing of optical interconnects, design of photometric simulations and creation of light-based models for virtual reality systems. His research interests include telecommunications, digital image processing and materials characterization. He was recently selected by Michigan Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) for a research fellowship that will begin in Fall 2016 and concentrate on free-space optical communications, and he plans to pursue an MS in optical engineering after graduation.

In 2016 SPIE awarded $351,000 in education and travel scholarships to 133 outstanding individuals, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Award-winning applicants were evaluated, selected and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, Chaired by SPIE volunteer Cristina Solano. An additional $45,000 in travel scholarships will be awarded later this year.

Through 2015, SPIE has distributed $5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education and to the next generation of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view press releases of the scholarship recipients as they become available go to http://spie.org/x1737.xml. Contact scholarships@spie.org if you have any questions. Learn more at http://spie.org/scholarships.

SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics, an educational not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based science, engineering, and technology. The Society serves nearly 264,000 constituents from approximately 166 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2015, SPIE provided more than $5.2 million in support of education and outreach programs. www.spie.org

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