



Press release

Cordovilla Leon awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – May 31, 2019 – **Darwin F. Cordovilla Leon** has been awarded a 2019 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.



Cordovilla Leon is a PhD candidate in the Applied Physics Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is also an NSF Graduate Research Fellow and University of Michigan Rackham Merit Fellow. Cordovilla Leon studies the dynamics of excitons in Van der Waals materials using spatially and temporally-resolved optical spectroscopy techniques under the supervision of professors Parag B. Deotare and Duncan G. Steel. His vision is to develop energy efficient, on-chip opto-excitonic devices for applications in information processing, energy harvesting, and communications.

The Society awarded \$298,000 in education scholarships to 84 outstanding SPIE student members, 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 Jeremy Bos.

Through 2018, SPIE has distributed \$6 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 other 2019 press releases as they become available go to the [2019 Scholarship Winners page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on [spie.org](#).

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 257,000 constituents from 173 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2018, SPIE provided more than \$4 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. www.spie.org.

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