



Press release

Sawyer awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – May 30, 2019 – **Travis William Sawyer** 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.



Travis is a PhD student at the University of Arizona, where he conducts research with Dr. Jennifer Barton to develop new methods and devices for the early detection of ovarian and esophageal cancer. In his research, he collaborates with Dr. Sarah Bohndiek at the University of Cambridge, with whom he completed his Masters degree, to couple expertise from the two institutions. He also has a long history of dedication to STEM outreach through SPIE student chapters, organizing and participating in dozens of outreach events each year to reach thousands of people.

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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