



Press release

## Morrissey awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 18 May 2020 – **Grady Morrissey** has been awarded a 2020 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.



Morrissey is graduating from high school with plans to study astrophysics and computer science at Yale University (USA) next year. His interest in optics grew from grinding a telescope mirror by hand and designing a spectrograph for science fair projects, to eventually working in Dr. Dimitri Mawet’s astrophysics laboratory at the California Institute of Technology investigating high-contrast coronagraphic techniques to reveal distant exoplanets. “I hope to discover evidence of extraterrestrial life during my lifetime,” said Morrissey.

In 2020, the Society is awarding \$298,000 in education scholarships to 78 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 Kate Medicus.

Through 2019, SPIE has distributed over \$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 2020 press releases as they become available go to the [2020 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 more than 255,000 constituents from 183 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2019, SPIE provided more than \$5.6 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. [www.spie.org](http://www.spie.org)

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