



Press release

Runzhou Zhang awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 20 May 2020 – **Runzhou Zhang** 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.



Zhang is a PhD candidate in the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California (USA). He is working under the supervision of Professor Alan Willner and his research interest includes optical wireless communication and sensing using structured light. He has been working on enhancing high-capacity multi-mode data transmission through random media, and he is also interested in probing and sensing turbid media using structured light beams. Zhang received the USC Annenberg PhD Fellowship in 2016 and is a student member of SPIE.

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

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