



Press release
24 May 2024

Natalie Fullerman awarded a Women in Optics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Natalie Fullerman** has been awarded a 2024 Women in Optics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, and Optimax, for potential contributions to the fields of optics, photonics, or engineering.



Fullerman recently graduated with her bachelor's degree in optical engineering from the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester (USA). After interning at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center this summer, she will be returning to the university to earn her master's in optics. She participates in **Assistant Professor Greg Schmidt's** research group, studying gradient index (GRIN) materials, and in **Professor Julie Bentley's** design group, working with zoom lenses. Fullerman enjoys participating in outreach and leadership activities through her involvement in SPIE, Optica, the Society of Women Engineers, Engineers Without Borders, as well as serving as a teaching assistant.

This month, the Society is awarding \$303,000 in scholarships to 72 outstanding SPIE Student Members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Successful applicants were evaluated, selected, and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, chaired by **SPIE Senior Member Brian Primeau**.

Since this program began in 1978, SPIE has distributed more than \$7.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education as well as to the future generations of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2024 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2024 Scholarship Recipients page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on spie.org.

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, SPIE has contributed more than \$24 million to the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. www.spie.org.

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