



2022 Mechanical Engineering Scholarships

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

David A. Brown Fellowship in Mechatronics



Keian Rennel Castro

My name is Keian Castro and I am from Santa Clara, CA. Growing up, I unknowingly always found myself fascinated with subjects and topics related to mechanical engineering. This ranges from playing around with Lego Technic kits to binge watching shows on the Discovery Channel such as “How It’s Made” and “MythBusters.” Throughout my years, I have always pondered my ability to be an engineer. As a graduating senior at San Jose State University, however, I can state with confidence that I am passionate about this specific field of engineering and the engineering product development process altogether. While both intensive and challenging, the Mechanical Engineering Department at SJSU has cemented - within myself - a solid foundation of understanding how forces can influence the world around us in a multitude of ways. In essence, through the power of mathematics and physics, my fellow engineers, peers, classmates, and myself can make a difference in the world.



Takoua El Bejaoui

My name is Takoua Bejaoui and I am a Grad student in both the ME and AE Departments at SJSU. I was born and raised locally in the Bay Area, and my parents come from North Africa (specifically Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco). I am the first in my family to earn an undergraduate and Master’s degree in engineering, and I am the first to officiate the double Master’s program at SJSU. This would not have been possible without the support of my mother, good friends and caring professors, educators, and administrative personnel I’ve met throughout my academic career. Thank you.

Francis Huang Memorial Scholarship Award



Jie Kai Teo

Hello, my name is Kai Teo. I am a Mechanical Engineering Senior here at San Jose State University. I am an International Student from Malaysia. I transferred to SJSU in Spring 2020, and I am graduating this year in Spring 2022. One of the few things that motivates me as a student in SJSU is the hands-on experience I got from the Spartan Racing, SJSU Formula SAE team, as well as the leadership opportunities I got from Pi Tau Sigma, a Mechanical Engineering Honor Society here at SJSU. I am super excited to be graduating this Spring, and I can’t wait to start the new chapter of my life as an Engineer.



Geoffrey Ament

Geoffrey Ament is a NASA Ames Pathway Student pursuing a Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from SJSU, specifically focusing on Mechatronics and Controls Design. Before studying at SJSU, he grew up in Wisconsin, where he completed his Bachelor of Sciences degree in Engineering Physics from the University of Wisconsin Platteville; this program provided him with the opportunity to learn about a number of engineering disciplines, including Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Controls, Programming, and Advanced Physics. This program was very fitting for him as he enjoys all aspects of projects, including engineering design on paper as well as actual fabrication. Post graduation, he had the privilege of working at the NASA Ames Research Center, where he has been able to continue gaining hands on experience in the multidisciplinary field of Mechatronics and Controls. In his final year at SJSU, he is working towards completion of a Mechatronics Masters Project with planned graduation in Fall 2022.

ME Endowment Scholarship



Samuel Jake Simmons

I am a second-semester Master’s student focusing on thermal and fluid sciences. I am from Cambell, a city near San Jose, and have lived there all my life. For my Master’s thesis, I will study the application of an experimental optical temperature measurement technique that uses laser-induced fluorescence of fluorescent dyes dissolved in fluids. This technique will be experimentally tested in multiphase fluid flows through porous media, as few pre-existing temperature measurement techniques can be applied to this application due to its complexity. Fluid flow through porous media has numerous applications in energy storage, groundwater flow, biological systems, and many others. I hope to use the knowledge I have learned through my Master’s degree to better people’s lives when I work as a thermal engineer in the future.



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ME Endowment Scholarship



Tyler James Erwin

Tyler Erwin is completing his third year this semester at SJSU with the Mechanical Engineering Department. He lives in Santa Cruz County, where he commutes daily to campus via the Santa Cruz Metro Bus. Tyler enjoys 3D printing and playing video games in his spare time. He is also the acting Vice President of our American Society of Mechanical Engineers club at SJSU. Within his club, they work daily on tackling projects that deal with important issues in today's society, while also introducing students to difficult skills in order to prepare them to join the industry. Tyler also is highly embedded within his classes as well, managing most of their review sessions and discords. He exemplifies through his on-campus activities how collaboration and teamwork lead to the best results. Tyler is currently scheduled to intern with the United States Patent Office this summer, and is hoping to enter the field of engineering administration when he graduates.

ME Graduate of the Year Award



Christian M. Pedrigal

My name is Christian Pedrigal, and I am a SJSU Mechanical Engineering Student with a Minor in Business and second Minor in Robotics. I am Filipino-American from Union City and ever since I started attending San Jose State, I have learned a lot of important things. For one, during my first year here, I had to learn how to incorporate about 1.5 to 2 hours of commute time every weekday driving between my home and school. At first, it was a nuisance thinking I could have spent those hours doing something more productive. But as I started to join more extracurricular activities and spent more time making more friends on campus, I learned a second thing: I really like being an active SJSU student! During my four years, I held officer positions for three clubs, including being President for ASME SJSU chapter, Vice President Education for Spartans Toastmasters, and founder for my own communications club. I was an on-campus employee, being an AV Technician in the Student Union and operating the ballroom events and meeting rooms for fun events on campus. I also became an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Kazemifar in the field of laser induced fluorescence as a part of his Energy, Environment, and Multiphase Flow (EEMF) lab team. This last semester, I joined Dr. Furman's ME 106 teaching team as an instructional student assistant, helping my mechanical engineering peers learn the fundamentals of mechatronics. (Teaching, helping, and listening to students is really fun, by the way!) I think the point is: there is a point in time where many commuter students like myself have to make a decision: is the commute time worth the time spent being here on campus, or should I just stay home instead? For me, early on, I decided to make the most of my time here on campus, and I'm glad that I met so many great engineering peers and friends along the way. (Special shoutout to Jake, Dylan, and Priscilla; Tan and his senior project team; Brandon and his senior project team; and all the other ME students here today). Thank you, SJSU, and thank you Mechanical Engineering Department, for this award and allowing me to have the fullest college experience I can before I graduate.

S. Brooks Walton Scholarship Award



Ryan James Sands

I am Ryan Sands, a San Jose native who has always been interested in engineering since childhood. I enjoy using mechatronics concepts to design and work on projects on campus. In my free time, I enjoy weightlifting, gaming, and hiking.



Tracy Don Hunter

I'm a tri valley native. Born in Livermore and raised in Pleasanton. I currently live in Dublin with my wife, and our 2-year old daughter. I'm an avid golfer, having been playing since I was 16. Both my wife and I love tennis. We have been on the USTA for years playing local tennis leagues. I'm excited to start teaching my daughter golf and tennis when she's a little older. In my journey to getting my mechanical engineering degree, I have come across some amazing people that helped and inspired me tremendously. As I embark on the next chapter, as a manufacturing engineer at Thermo Fisher, I will be sure to take on the legacy - continue to learn and grow, and help others the best I can.



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Veterans Scholarship Andrew Lau-Seim



Nico Palani Alfaro

My name is Nico Alfaro, and I am from Monterey County. I am a transitioning service member who spent 5 years in the United States Marine Corps, now studying Mechanical Engineering at SJSU. As someone who loves the outdoors, I hope to work in the outdoor sports industry after graduation where I can develop products that allow people from all walks of life to enjoy outdoor spaces.

Gilead Sciences ME Scholarship



Charlie David Nino

Hello my name is Charlie Nino, and I am a third year Mechanical Engineering student from Sonoma County, CA. I have a great passion for technology, innovation, and community. I am currently involved as the President of SJSU ASME, a member of the Biomedical Engineering club, and a Peer Advisor/Student Assistant for MEP. I hope to continue to serve my community and shape my future through leadership and opportunities that will allow me to grow as an engineer.



Lysette Zaragoza

As the first in my family to pursue engineering, my journey has included overcoming obstacles such as a lack of guidance and resources. By joining campus organizations such as the MESA engineering program, I have been able to turn these obstacles into strengths such as gaining a STEM support network through mentors and earning multiple internships. After initially not being accepted into engineering at UC San Diego, transferring to community college, and then transferring to San Jose State University, I am now a senior undergraduate student at SJSU pursuing a BS in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in robotics. My interest in robotics was sparked by past internships and projects in the biomedical, manufacturing, and mechatronics areas. I am currently applying this knowledge toward the development of a teleoperated robotic system for needle-based procedures in the SJSU Biomechanics and Robotics Laboratory under Dr. Lin Jiang. Outside of the classroom, I am passionate about increasing diversity in STEM as a professional development chair in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and a mentor in my community's tutoring program called Metas. My long term goal is to combine engineering and advocacy to develop accessible and health-related robotics systems.

Robert A. Dees Memorial Scholarship



Maiken Nettie Kateri Dempsey Pardon

My name is Maiken Nettie Pardon and I have five names in total since I am the youngest of five kids. Two of my older siblings are even alumni of San Jose State University. I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering and working towards a minor in Computer Science. In addition to school, I play water polo for San Jose State's women's team, am a member of the Society of Women Engineers, and am a member of Pi Tau Sigma. I am from Manhattan Beach, California. A fun fact about me is I am an ocean lifeguard for the City of Huntington Beach. I also have competed in numerous ocean lifesaving events such as representing the U.S. for the under-nineteen surf lifesaving team in South Africa. During the pandemic, I found a new hobby in distance open water swimming. This new hobby led me to swim a 10k and swim on a relay that went from Catalina Island to Palos Verdes.



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Robert A. Dees Memorial Scholarship



Devon Heubel

I'm a second year Mechanical Engineering major with a passion for engineering solutions to better connect our world through transportation. This was likely influenced by my desire for change from life in rural locations, where nothing is ever in motion. As offshoots of this passion, I developed interests in designing RC cars to explore mechanics, and language learning to read literature from countries with highly developed transportation infrastructure.



Jason Siggy Corona

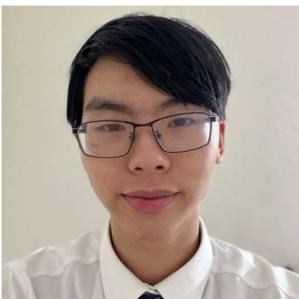
I am a rising junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering so that I can gain the necessary knowledge to work on new forms of sustainable transportation. I am a first generation college student and first generation Mexican American, which both impact and fuel my work ethic to succeed. Through my upbringing I strive to work hard to help out those around me, and to serve as an inspiration for other students who come from the same background. Overall, I hope that through my hard work I can inspire others to work hard towards their own goals as well.

Steven Meacham Memorial Scholarship



Max Niklas Rothe

My name is Max Rothe and I am a mechanical engineering transfer student. I transferred from the SMCCCD district where I took courses at both College of San Mateo and Skyline Colleges. I am now a fourth year college student at SJSU where I am involved in MEP, the IDEAS club, and a member of both TBP and PTS. Outside of school I work at a medical device startup company in Redwood City where I am learning good lab practice, fabrication skills, and technical problem solving.



Andrew Duong

My name is Andrew Duong, I transferred to San Jose State from Cosumnes Community College, near Sacramento. I'm a hard-working student that enjoys working on side projects in my free time, whether they are related to engineering or to any new topics I take interest in. I like to gain new skills by taking part in practical experiences that allow me to create something great.