

# Scholarship & Awards Ceremony

2026



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Geography

& Environmental Studies

# Schedule of Events

2026

## **5:00 PM | Scholarship & Awards Ceremony**

*Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Michael Solem*

### ***Opening Remarks***

Dr. Jennifer Jensen, Chair

### ***College Academic Excellence Awards***

Dr. Mary Brennan, Dean

### ***Scholarships Presentation***

Dr. Eric Sarmiento

### ***Student Organization Awards***

Student Organization Members

### ***Department of Geography Awards***

Dr. Eric Sarmiento

## **6:30PM-8:00PM | Reception & Networking**





# College of Liberal Arts Award for Academic Excellence

2026

Charlotte Anderson

Braeden Aubrey

Daniel Baum

Nathan Bealer

Lucy Blake

Michael Bock

Sophia Boyd

Aubrey Brown

Ayden Byers

Aryssa Camenisch

Luke Cameron

Mariano Casares Kelleher

Lauren Clement

Zoe Cooper

John Michael Cornelius

Samantha Corrigan

Cristan Cruz

Taylor Davis

David Denardo

Anna Dickerson

Amanda Doelling

Finn Duffy

Danielle Espinoza

Elizabeth Esposito

Brionna Garcia

Mya Geren

Giselle Guerrero

Joseph Guerrero

Annie Haegner

Madeline Haish

Katherine Harwood

Benjamin Hassall

Talon Hensley

Jonathan Herbig

Isabel Houle

Abigail Kelsey

# College of Liberal Arts Award for Academic Excellence

2026

Jack Kenney

Nikolas Kneupper

Tyler Lambert

Isabella Lanham

Annie Looney

Samuel Loop

Gwendolyn Martin

Samantha McLennon

Samuel Niemeyer

Jacob Nodler

Zoe Ontko

Devin Parente

Benjamin Perlmutter

Alexandra Perlmutter

Selena Pillado

Porter Plepys

Caitlin Powell

Kameran Randolph

Madison Roberts

Olivia Rocha

Parker Smith

Jake Stachura

Philip Steffen

Ashley Sutton

Jordyn Thompson

Russell Tolliver

Kathryn Venezia

Josiah Watson

John Wenmohs

Solomon White

Jonah Winter

Samantha Wommack

Madelyn Zwilling



**Recipients are determined by the 2026 Scholarship and Awards Selection Committee.**

**The committee is chaired by Dr. Michael Solem and includes Dr. Eric Sarmiento, Dr. Ben Prince, and Holly Bazaldua**

**For more information about each scholarship and award, use this QR code.**



<https://rb.gy/hvpxuw>

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**This event has been brought to you by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Major Events Committee. The committee is chaired by Ms. Katie Webb and includes Daniel Hemenway, Charles Robinson, Holly Bazaldua, Dr. Sarah Blue, Dr. Kimberly Meitzen, Dr. Colleen Myles, and Dr. Robert Mace.**

**Thank you also to Brandon Rose, M.S. Geography (2019), for helping to sponsor this event!**

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# Scholarship Recipients

2026

Graduate Excellence Award

Derrick Ahadzi  
Audra Garcia  
Erin Farina  
Avery Bouskila  
Brenna Eliaz  
Tristan Goedert  
Wajeeh Kahn  
Elizabeth Kubacki  
Adriana Montoya  
Prabesh Pandey  
David Smiecinski  
Winfred Wyettyey

Leif Anenson Geography  
Scholarship

David Orcasitas

Rebecca Augustin Geography  
Undergraduate Endowment

Solomon WHITE

Bruce Lee Augustin Undergraduate  
Geography Scholarship

Deanna Gonzalez

Byron "Doc" Augustin  
Undergraduate Geography  
Scholarship Endowment

Devin Parente  
Alyvia Payne

George D. Battle Memorial  
Scholarship Blanchard Scholarship

Marie White

Karen Brettschneider Geography  
Scholarship

Josiah Watson

Ray & Marian Butler Environmental  
Geography Scholarship

Suraj Sharma

Detlefsen Doctoral 2nd Year  
Excellence Scholarship

Brock Burford  
Fatema Tarin  
Tay Villaseñor  
Prabish Chhetri  
Jong-Ku Park  
Neelam Thapa Magar

# Scholarship Recipients

2026

Detlefsen Doctoral Candidate  
Excellence Scholarship

Detlefsen Doctoral Dissertation  
Excellence Scholarship

Detlefsen Graduate Field Study  
Scholarship

Detlefsen Senior Academic &  
Leadership Scholarship

Richard A. Earl Gamma Theta  
Upsilon (GTU) Geography  
Scholarship

Sandra Estaville Dissertation  
Scholarship

Giordano-Mastroianni Family  
Endowed Scholarship in Geography

Hilmar W. and Alta R. Hageman  
Family Endowed Scholarship

Allen D. Hellman Geography and  
Planning Scholarship

Gloria Gene Moore and Gloria Bliss  
Moore Endowed Scholarship

Jeffries Family Endowment in  
Geography - Undergraduate

Alborz Ebadi  
Keenon Lindsey  
Marie White  
Priyanjali Bose

Anupa Bhatta

Md Tousif Tanzir  
Wesley Kimeli  
Jong-Ku Park  
Amanda Barney  
Alborz Ebaldi

Elizabeth Esposito

Onyedikachi Okeke

Md Tousif Tanzir  
Priyanjali Bose

Alborz Ebadi  
Suraj Sharma

Andy Raibourn  
Jake Decker  
Seth Aguilar

Julie Valdez  
Jyotsana Kandel  
Scott Bigler

Lillian Janek

Tay Villaseñor  
Brock Burford  
Amanda Barney  
Luisa Amato Caye

# Scholarship Recipients

2026

Sally Ann Karnau Geography  
Scholarship

Sally Ann Karnau Geography  
Dissertation Research Scholarship

Lester/Wahl Family Endowed  
Scholarship in Geography

Amita Malwade Graduate  
Scholarship in Human Geography

Joe & Jerry Moore Scholarship in  
Water Resources

Jacob "Jake" Rakofsky Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

Leon & Verann Simmons Geography  
Scholarship

Phillip A. Staskus Undergraduate  
Geography Scholarship

Taetz Family Geography Scholarship

Jim Wacker Geography Scholarship  
Endowment

Mao-Geng Zhan Scholarship for  
Academic Excellence

Spirit of Geography Scholarship

Roy and Dr. Michelle Worthy  
Endowed Scholarship in Geography  
and Environmental Studies

Ivan Velasco  
David Orcasitas

Jong-Ku Park  
Nirvana Heidarianbaei

Jonah Winter

Michael White

Derrick Ahadzi  
Avery Bouskila

Deanna Gonzalez  
Lydia Sciba

Anna Napolitano

Orrin Hiner

Abby Richardson

Kevin Battlestein

Neelam Thapa Magar  
Nirvana Heidarianbaei

Jaiden Jones  
Levi Larson  
Westin Whitford

Cole Kovar



# Student Organization Awards

2026

Bobcat Stream Team (BST) Award  
for Excellence in Water Quality  
Citizen Science

Asher Lamb

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)  
Outstanding Service Award

Cole Kovar

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)  
Officer Dedication Award

Zoe Ontoko

Geology Club Outstanding  
Leadership Award

Calvin Gotcher

Student Urban Planners  
Organization (SUPO) Outstanding  
Planning Award

Madi Roberts

Supporting Women in Geography  
(SWIG) Julie A. Tuason Award

Tay Villaseñor



# Department Awards

2026

Graduate Student Forum  
Outstanding Professor Award

Dr. Samantha Krause

Outstanding Undergraduate  
Student

Olivia Rocha

Outstanding Master's Student

Farhaan Cooverji

Outstanding Ph.D. Student

Pingping Wang

Graduate Student Award for  
Outstanding Service

Diane Nuñez

Outstanding Staff Service Award  
- College or University Level

Robby Longoria

The Outstanding Service Award -  
Department or Community Level

Laela Wilson

Outstanding Support from a  
Governmental Agency Award

Jessica Neuner & Emilee  
Freeman – City of San  
Marcos

Outstanding Support from an  
NGO

Antonio Busalacchi

Outstanding Service by an  
Extramural Educator

Rachel Miller

Distinguished Alumni Award

Chance Sparks

Spirit of Geography Award

Dr. Rich Dixon



# Department Mission

The mission of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies is to provide its students with educational experiences of the highest quality, to conduct vital research that benefits society, and to serve our communities, from the local to the international. We are committed to outstanding teaching and scholarly activities within the framework of academic freedom, the diversity of people and ideas, a spirit of inclusiveness, and a global perspective.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our students and their success!



<https://linktr.ee/txstgeo>

