



## **LAGCOE Awards Future Energy Professionals Scholarships**

LAGCOE is proud to announce the winners of the Future Energy Professionals scholarship. Recognizing the importance of collegiate majors from disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), LAGCOE has created this scholarship in an effort to attract professional talent capable of maintaining a high level of technical proficiency within the oil & gas industry. The scholarships are awarded to goal-oriented students planning to enroll into a Louisiana College in pursuit of a STEM-centric Degree.

Two Acadiana-area recent high school graduates were selected as recipients of this award: Drake Bergeron from Ovey Comeaux High School in Lafayette, La. and Laura Manuel from Sacred Heart School in Ville Platte, La. The scholarship entitles each student to \$1,000 per semester while pursuing a degree in one of the STEM fields – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics – at a Louisiana university, for up to 5 years. The winners were honored at a reception, hosted by LAGCOE and Community Foundation of Acadiana on Monday, May 23, 2016.

Drake is a recent graduate of Ovey Comeaux High School in Lafayette, La. and will be attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the fall, pursuing a degree in chemical engineering. “I decided to major in Chemical Engineering because I appreciate the versatility of the degree. In pursuing this, I am providing myself the best means of accomplishing my goals, which are to: create safer, more environmentally and economically friendly methodologies, to build the reputation of the oil and natural gas industry as a result thereof, and to pioneer innovative equipment conducive to optimizing the output of clean energy sources,” Bergeron said.

Laura is a recent graduate of Sacred Heart School in Ville Platte, La. and will be attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the fall, pursuing a degree in civil engineering. “Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by the products of engineering, but never really noticed it,” Manuel said. “Whether it was watching the opened locks at Simmesport or the levee at Toledo Bend, I was always witnessing complex engineering works that provided infrastructure crucial to our state. Seeing many of these innovations has reassured me that an engineering career path will be fulfilling.”

LAGCOE Future Energy Professionals Program is managed by the Young Professionals of LAGCOE and supported by the LAGCOE Education Fund, a Fund at Community Foundation of Acadiana. The program was established to encourage and support future industry professionals to pursue technical positions, which literally fuel our world. Included are projects, which work to support the middle, secondary, and higher education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum.

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LAGCOE 2017 will be held October 24-26, 2017 at The Cajundome & Convention Center in Lafayette, LA. LAGCOE is a first-rate exposition where world class oil and gas industry companies display the latest equipment and services and technical sessions address pertinent issues from across the globe. In 2015, LAGCOE welcomed 450 exhibitors and more than 16,400 attendees from 49 states and 40 countries. Learn more at [LAGCOE.com](http://LAGCOE.com).

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