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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIPES Foundation awards \$30,000 in academic scholarships

Richardson, TX - The SIPES Foundation, overseeing the scientific, educational, and charitable programs of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES), announces that 12 outstanding earth science and engineering students have been selected to receive scholarship awards this year. Applications were accepted from currently enrolled, upper-division and graduate-level students studying any field of earth science or engineering, and who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need and academic achievement.

Receiving a \$4,000 award from the Marvolene Speed Bennett and Carleton D. Speed, Jr. Endowed Fund is **Hutson Smith**, an undergraduate student studying petroleum engineering at the University of Tulsa. Receiving a \$4,000 award from the Stephen E. Collins Memorial Scholarship Fund is **Matthew Sliwinski**, studying earth science at Ohio State University. Receiving a \$4,000 award from the Edward A. McCullough Endowed Fund is **James “Conor” McCaa**, an undergraduate student in petroleum engineering at Texas A&M University.

Receiving \$2,000 awards are: **Kaden Harris** and **Ben Schulke** from the University of Oklahoma; **Caden Chin** from the University of Texas at Austin; **Kaylie Dana** from UT-San Antonio; **Brandon Ferguson** from Louisiana State University; **Ashley Mindt** from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; **Capri Montgomery** from Texas A&M University; **Jakob Rogers** from the University of Georgia; and **Ayann Tiam** from Texas Tech University.

Since its founding in 1981, the SIPES Foundation has awarded scholarships to 305 promising earth science and engineering students. Funding for the 2026 awards was made possible through generous donations from SIPES members, bequests from the Foundation’s endowed funds (above), and from designated gifts from the SIPES members and chapters. The SIPES Foundation also conducts educational seminars, contributes funding to earth science publications and continuing education programs, and maintains a library of earth science films.

SIPES is a national organization of more than 650 self-employed geologists, geophysicists and engineers engaged primarily in domestic energy exploration and development. SIPES has 12 chapters located in oil and gas centers of the United States. Applications for the SIPES Foundation Scholarships are available on the SIPES website, www.sipes.org, annually in January.

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