

Summary of National Ocean Sciences Bowl® (NOSB) 2014 National Ocean Scholarship Program Recipients

Background: Applicants submitted an application, SAT/ACT scores, two written essays and two letters of recommendations. One essay was personal, describing their inspiration and interest in ocean science and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The second essay was a choice between two topics: 1) choosing one oceanic feature and explaining its current societal impacts and significance to our understanding of the ocean; or 2) taking a position on one of the current challenges in ocean management (their choice) and writing a persuasive argument to convince others to also take that position.

Each application was reviewed by three reviewers from various departments and backgrounds within the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. Reviewers used a provided rubric to evaluate each application. After all the scores were summed and averaged, the top five candidates with the highest average scores received scholarships.

2014 Recipients:



Katherine Ball graduated from Lake Stevens High School in Lakes Stevens, Washington. She was also a student in the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA - a dual enrollment, early college program at Everett Community College), taking college-level oceanography courses. She conducted original research on microplastics, collecting samples and analyzing them under a microscope. Katherine also organized a marine debris event, Actions and Oceans: How Our Actions Today Affect the Oceans Tomorrow, for more than 60 participants. She organized a panel consisting of scientists and experts from NOAA and Washington Sea Grant, all in an attempt to educate the public on the issue of marine debris at the local and regional levels.

Due to her innovation with this event, there will now be an annual public education event called Human Impacts on the Ocean at ORCA. She plans to attend the University of Washington and focus on physical oceanography, her area of specialization on her NOSB team.

Alanna Kieffer attended Seaside High School in Seaside, Oregon. Individuals who submitted letters of recommendation noted that Alanna has a contagious sense of wonder, inquiry and stewardship for the natural world. They also noted that they know for certain that she will continue life-long learning about science and will work in a profession that involves directly helping others. Alanna was a Junior Rocky Shore Interpreter for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach, Oregon, where she offered education to adult visitors as well as K-12 students in the program's bird observation, aquaria and intertidal exploration stations. She also volunteers for a marine mammal stranding network and SOLVE, a beach cleaning and micro-plastics removal program. She will attend Oregon State University and major in Biology, with a concentration in Marine Biology.

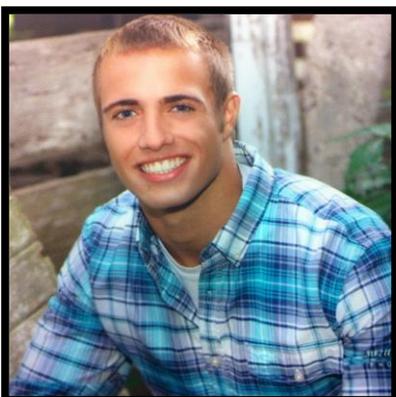




Andrew Levorse attended the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science in Manahawkin, New Jersey. While preparing with his team for the NOSB's Shore Bowl, Andrew took the lead in organizing team meetings, communications, training sessions and the facilitation of personal research and online lectures. He was an intern at Jenkinson's Aquarium where he assisted with the animals and learned how to maintain the mechanics of an industrial tank system. Both of his letters of recommendation highlighted how he is a focused leader who takes pride in his accomplishments and strives to learn more about the complexity of ocean and aquatic ecosystems. Andrew plans to attend the University of Richmond and while majoring in Environmental

Studies, he is planning on taking marine sciences courses and conducting field research in marine biology and ecology, focusing on marine sponges.

Rachel Liu graduated from Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, California. Reviewers noted that Rachel's essays were well written and very creative. Rachel was accepted into the Student Science Fellows program at the California Academy of Sciences, a science immersion program for highly motivated high school students. She even presented the results of her research (on mosquitos, microbes and disease risk) at the inaugural Pre-Collegiate Science Conference at Stanford University. She will be presenting a poster at the Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution in Puerto Rico as well. Rachel noted that she was shocked that marine science trivia, studied for her participation in the NOSB competition, would change her mind from focusing on engineering to marine science. While majoring in Marine Biology at the University of California Santa Barbara, she plans to pursue marine biology research and become certified in SCUBA diving.



Tyler O'Keefe attended Spring Valley High School in Spring Valley, Wisconsin where he was a leader in numerous activities, including National Honor Society, Student Council, Future Farmers of America and Science Club. He balanced a challenging academic schedule with other numerous school, sport and community/volunteering responsibilities due to a very strong work ethic. With humor, as a "science nerd," Tyler helped convince the Student Council to choose "biomes" as his school's homecoming theme; his class claimed the ocean biome, of course. Tyler's involvement in the NOSB and participation in cruises to collect water samples and map Milwaukee Harbor, have steered his interests toward the field of fisheries biology.

While at Carleton College, he plans to delve into hands-on research and take advantage of the opportunity to travel to Australia to study marine ecology.