



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Seventh Annual Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship

By Lisa Schatz

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) held its seventh annual live auction in February during its annual Rural Water Expo. The Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship is in memory of a dedicated rural water circuit rider who traveled approximately 750,000 miles to provide assistance anywhere or anytime it was needed. In an attempt to keep Denne's memory alive, the NDRWSA board of directors awards four individual, one-time \$1,750 scholarships each year. Students may use the money to defray tuition, room and board, and books at Bismarck State College's Water and Wastewater Technology program. A selection committee appointed by the NDRWSA executive board reviews applications and selects the recipients based on academic performance, career goals, extracurricular activities, and a brief essay on a predetermined topic.

NDRWSA is pleased to announce that Dillon Erhardt of Mandan has received one of this year's scholarships. Below is his essay.



Dan Rouse of South Central Regional Water District, scholarship recipient Dillon Erhardt, and NDRWSA Executive Director Eric Volk.

What I Hope to Accomplish in the Water Industry

By Dillon Erhardt

In 2011, I received my associate of science [degree] in power plant technology. I am currently working on my water/wastewater treatment technology certification. After going on a tour at the Mandan Water Treatment Plant during a power plant class, I decided I wanted to go into water treatment.

I have been working at South Central Regional Water District since June 2014. The past eight months have been a fantastic start to my career in the water industry. Since people are always going to need water in life, it means that the industry is only going to grow and innovate itself as time goes on. This means I have endless learning possibilities being in the water industry. I hope to one day become a level four water treatment operator. One day I hope I can bring some new ideas to the industry or invent something that would make certain processes easier. That would be an amazing accomplishment, but for now I want to concentrate on learning everything behind the processes of the current water treatment plant that I am employed with.

I am fortunate enough to not only be employed in the water industry, but I am employed at a facility that is unique. The use of ozone technology has not popularized yet, especially in North Dakota. I hope to stay at this facility for a long time and earn all my operator certificates, and maybe after a while I will look to do something else in the water industry.

Going to another country where clean water is not in abundance and help in creating ways to clean the water is a dream of mine. This would be a wonderful accomplishment and experience if I could make a difference by helping come up with way to get clean water to people who really need it. Creating clean drinking water is so crucially important and giving these countries the knowledge on how to create it would be very rewarding. I would be willing to go over there and help train people on how to operate the equipment. That experience would give me a great feeling that I accomplished something worthwhile in the water industry. Helping people get the clean water they need to live better, healthier lives is something I would be very proud to be a part of.

Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship

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Items Donated for Scholarship Auction

- AE2S..... Hunting Blind
- All Season Water Users District Andrew Knudson Art
- Barnes Rural Water District Terry Redlin Print
- Bolton & Menk, Inc..... HP Tablet
- Burke Divide Williams Rural Water .. George Foreman Grill
- Central Plains Water District Pride of Dakota Food Basket
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- Dakota Pump & Control, Inc. Terry Redlin Print
- Dakota Rural Water District Rapala Fillet Knife & Plier Combo
- DN Tanks, Inc. Keurig
- Eric Volk Smoker
- Grand Forks-Traill Water District 4.5" Dewalt Angle Grinder
- Greater Ramsey Water District Drill Bit Set & Jam/ Syrup/Salsa Basket
- Joe LaFave 1/2" Air Impact Wrench
- Missouri West Water System Kim Norlien Print, Numbered & Signed
- Mueller Water Products Binoculars
- North Prairie Rural Water District Headphones
- Northeast Regional Water District..... Dewalt 12v Cordless Drill/Driver Impact Kit
- South Central Regional Water District.. Mechanics Tool Set
- Southeast Water Users District Dewalt Drill
- Southwest Water Authority..... Medora Package
- Stantec Consulting Services Inc. St. Croix Rod
- Stutsman Rural Water District Fenwick Graphite Fishing Rod/Reel
- Traill Rural Water District..... Home Theatre System
- Tri-County Rural Water District Digiland Tablet
- Vernon Anderson..... Handcrafted Wooden Bowl
- Walsh Rural Water District.. 200 pounds Red River Potatoes
- Western Area Water Supply Authority Ipad Mini
- Western Area Water Supply Authority Mr. Heater
- Williams Rural Water District..... Reciprocating Saw Kit