



---

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR**  
**THE 2025 DR. ROBERT OKEY SCHOLARSHIP**  
**SPONSORED BY THE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF UTAH**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Dr. Robert W. Okey Scholarship was established to honor a man who dedicated over 50 years to the wastewater industry, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU). Dr. Okey worked in the wastewater industry for many years before earning his Ph.D. and becoming a professor at the University of Utah. Many current professionals in Utah's industry remember taking classes from him. He authored numerous papers and books and held patents related to various aspects of wastewater treatment. He is fondly remembered for his many unique papers and presentations at annual conferences, as well as his contributions to advancing the goals of WEAU.

**ELIGIBILITY**

This scholarship is open to any undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled in at least nine (9) credit hours in any Civil or Environmental Programs, whether in engineering or a related field of science or technology. Applicants must also be members of WEAU (visit [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org) to sign up).

Eligible students may apply for the scholarship each year it is offered. However, a candidate can only receive a maximum of \$3,000 in grant money from the Dr. Robert Okey Scholarship sponsored by WEAU over their lifetime.

**DEADLINE**

Completed applications for this year's scholarship must be submitted electronically by October 23, 2025. Late submissions will not be considered. The scholarship recipients will be notified by November 10, 2025. They will also be invited to receive the scholarship at the WEAU Mid-year Conference on November 18, 2025, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, located at 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, Utah.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

This year, one scholarship will be available, with a \$3,000 grant awarded to an eligible undergraduate or graduate student. The scholarship will be given as a one-time award.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The following materials are required:

1. A cover page that includes the following information:
  - a. Name
  - b. Phone number
  - c. Email address
  - d. College or University you are currently attending
  - e. Degree program
  - f. Expected completion date
2. A complete resume
3. A current transcript
4. A statement of career goals and interests
5. Write a 1,000-1,500-word essay that answers each question on the given topic, following American Psychological Association (APA) style with fully justified margins.

### **Topic - Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in the Wastewater Industry**

- Describe how AI and ML can be applied in wastewater treatment.
- Explain the potential benefits of incorporating AI and ML into wastewater treatment.
- What are some current concerns related to integrating AI and ML into a complete wastewater treatment plant?
- What regulatory framework and compliance standards should be considered before the Utah Division of Water Quality issues permits allowing treatment plants to implement AI and ML in wastewater treatment, especially regarding how AI and ML make decisions that may impact the permitted effluent.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

A committee appointed by the WEAU Board members will evaluate the submitted applications based on the following:

1. The completeness of the application form
2. Eligibility of the applicant
3. A review of the applicant's statement of career goals and interests
4. The quality of the applicant's essay, including:
  - a. Questions answered clearly for the selected topic
  - b. Detailed information supported by your research on the topic
  - c. A complete list of sources included in a reference section at the end of your essay (not counted in the word total)



## SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please send completed applications to [okeyscholarship@weau.org](mailto:okeyscholarship@weau.org) as a single PDF document with the following file name: 2025\_Okey\_Scholarship\_LastName\_FirstName.pdf. Completed Scholarship applications must be submitted electronically by **October 23, 2025**. Late submittals will not be eligible for consideration.