NOAA-CESSRST Awards Fourth Lautenbacher Scholarship
SDSU Doctoral Student Receives Prestigious Award

Date: May 6, 2020

Andrea Fenner becomes the fourth recipient of Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Graduate Scholarship, administered annually by the NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (NOAA CESSRST).

Andrea Fenner, a Ph.D. student in SDSU’s joint doctoral program in ecology, studying the effects of drought, fire, and stand age on CO2 flux in semi-arid chaparral ecosystems. Monitoring of atmospheric greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide (CO2) and its impact on climate change, has been part of NOAA’s mission.

Miss Fenner has been involved in several community outreach programs including Upward Bound at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program at CSUSM, and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Additionally, she has been a key figure in organizing chemistry fairs for underprivileged youth in San Diego, aimed at increasing the number of underprivileged minority youth in science. Miss Fenner also worked with NOAA scientists on analyzing the effects of human activity, land use, and land cover on water quality, and coral reef health, in American Samoa.

Walter Oechel, a Distinguished Professor, at the Department of Biology at the San Diego State University (SDSU), is Andrea’s advisor, and, supported her application for the Lautenbacher Award.

After receiving the award, Miss Fenner said, “I plan to create a community service engagement program that helps students from underrepresented communities in San Diego, CA increase their understanding of STEM disciplines through one-on-one tutoring, exposure to scientific experiments and field research, and other STEM related outreach events”.

The previous award winners are Stephen Escarzaga (2017) from the University of Texas, El Paso, Veeshan Narinesingh (2018) from the City College of New York, and Suhey Ortiz Rosa (2019), from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez.

The Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Graduate Scholarship provides financial support for Master’s and Doctoral studies in Earth Systems Science, Engineering, Data Science, Geosciences and Remote Sensing Technologies. Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher is a supporter of the NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI), as well as, a supporter of activities for diversifying the workforce through programs that reach out and commit to inclusion of students and graduates from traditionally, underrepresented communities. In recognition of his contribution to the NOAA EPP/MSI Program and specifically his support for Earth Systems Sciences, the Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Scholarship is established at and funded by the NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (NOAA-CESSRST). Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr. served as the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the US Department of Commerce and the 8th Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from December 19, 2001 to October 31, 2008. Dr. Lautenbacher spearheaded the first Earth Observation Summit, which hosted ministerial-level representation from several dozen nations in July 2003.
About NOAA-EPP CESSRST

NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (CESSRST), a Cooperative Science Center (CSC), was established in 2016 through a national competition and is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It is a National leader in STEM workforce development and supporting NOAA mission related to Earth Systems observations, monitoring through application of environmental satellites and ground-based remote sensing technologies. The Center’s mission is to educate, train and graduate a new generation of diverse and competent cadre of students, and to create a diverse and skilled workforce in NOAA mission-aligned STEM and social science disciplines through participation in state-of-the-art research.

(L to R) - Reza Khanbilvardi, Director NOAA CESSRST, Veeshan Narinesingh (2018), VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Stephen Escarzaga (2018), Suhey Ortiz Rosa (2019), and Benjamin Friedman, NOAA’s Deputy Under Secretary for Operations