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## 2019 Scholarships Awarded for Education in Landscape Architecture

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CTASLA) has named **Chrishima Richards**, of **Stamford, CT** and **Oliver Zych**, of **Weston, CT** its 2019 CTASLA Student Scholarship recipients. Scholarships are awarded annually by CTASLA to encourage education in the field of landscape architecture and increase awareness of the profession.

Ms. Richards was awarded a \$2,500 Karen Ann Shopis-Fox Memorial Scholarship, while Mr. Zych was awarded a \$1,500 Landscape Architecture Environmental Stewardship Scholarship for High School Seniors. These scholarships are funded through proceeds from the Chapter's annual golf outing, this year taking place on Friday, September 27 at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford, CT.

"CTASLA is proud to give these scholarships on behalf of our members and sponsors," said Tom Hammerberg, the chapter's president, a landscape architect with Stantec New Haven. "This year's worthy recipients suggest a bright future for our profession."

Since she was young, **Chrishima Richards** has always had a love for drawing and producing art in different forms, such as painting or sculpting. "My work always stood out to my teachers and professors, where the focus was always geared toward my meticulousness in penmanship and use of intricate line work. I am adept at expressing creativity in project-based endeavors," she says.

With a great interest in travel, Chrishima is participating in a Landscape Form and Urban Design education abroad program during summer break, visiting six countries along with 10 other students and two professors. She believes that exposure to famous gardens and intellectually stimulating spaces around the world will introduce her to new gateways for starting conversations. "I appreciate learning in environments that challenge me to step outside of my comfort zone, especially if it enhances my understanding of the global economy." Her plan is to become a licensed landscape architect and eventually own her own practice. "I would like to be a part of the change that improves livability for cities near me," she says.

Stuart Sachs, who invited Chrishima to intern in his Bridgeport-based practice, PRE/view Landscape Architects, last summer, says she is a motivated, quick learner. "It was a two-way education," he says. "I think I learned as much from her as she did from me."

**Oliver Zych**, a recent graduate of Weston Public High School, will be matriculating in the fall to California Polytechnic State University, where he will study landscape architecture. Oliver has been fascinated with the natural world ever since he can remember, spending his childhood exploring the outdoors through a range of activities. A variety of interactions, landscapes, and intricate designs captured his attention over the years, he says. When he attended a design workshop at Virginia Tech's School of Architecture and Design last summer, he was fascinated by the range of projects that were presented, and became eager to learn more. Ultimately, Oliver aspires to a career in landscape architecture in the public or private sector. "It is my hope to be involved with designing, creating, and repurposing landscapes that build inviting and functional spaces."

Cheryl Levine, Founder of StudioLK, a design house, says of Oliver, "He looks to the outdoors as a beautiful place for us all to enjoy, while taking the time to understand the delicate balance between our environment and the needs of society. His attributes are that of a respectful change-maker, someone who treads lightly while leaving a lasting mark. It will be exciting to see what the future holds for Oliver."

To learn more about eligibility and guidelines for CTASLA's student scholarships, see <http://www.ctasla.org/scholarships.htm>. Applications for the 2020 awards are due March 15, 2020.

Founded in 1899, ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 15,000 members in 49 professional chapters. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation.

Echoing the mission of the national organization, the Connecticut Chapter — with 275 members across the state — aims to lead, educate and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. CTASLA strives to advance the profession of landscape architecture in Connecticut by providing educational programs, publications, information and resources to members and to those seeking to benefit from landscape architectural services.

Learn more about landscape architecture online at [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org). For more information on activities of the Connecticut Chapter, please see our website at [www.ctasla.org](http://www.ctasla.org).

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