

CONSTRUCTION

Company's scholarship boosts industry, recruits workers

A fund set up to honor a co-founder's son has ultimately served a dual purpose for Advanced American Construction

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When Advanced American Construction – formerly Advanced American Diving – established a scholarship fund for college students pursuing careers in engineering and construction, it didn't expect the program to become a recruiting tool.

"We're trying to help someone interested in the construction industry get involved in the industry," said Dee Burch, president of Advanced American Construction. "We never intended it to be a way to find candidates to work for us."

Three of the first-year scholarship winners now work for Advanced American, a Portland-based marine construction company.

"If I hadn't received the scholarship ... I wouldn't have learned about Advanced American Construction," said Kainan Bodenlos, a project manager at Advanced American who received the top scholarship in 2000 as a senior at Oregon State University. "The scholar-



Dan Carter/DJC

Kainan Bodenlos earned Advanced American Construction's top scholarship in 2000 as a senior at Oregon State University. He parlayed the opportunity into a job with the company as a project manager.

ship has pretty much led me to where I'm at with the company."

Bodenlos is the on-site superintendent overseeing Advanced American's retrofit of the Burnside Bridge. He's in the process of planning how to suspend the 3.8 million pound concrete counterweight on a hydraulic jacking system in order to remove and replace the aging mechanical lift system.

"The thing that drew me to Advanced is

the complexity of the work they bid," Bodenlos said.

The Schweiger Memorial Scholarship fund was established in 1999 to honor Forrest Schweiger, the son of Advanced American co-founder Conrad Schweiger who was killed in a construction accident in Vancouver, Wash. at the age of 26. The fund now also honors Conrad Schweiger,

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who died of a heart attack in 2002.

Over the past seven years the Schweiger Memorial Scholarship fund has awarded 82 scholarships in increments of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 for a total of \$170,000.

Annually, at least two of the scholarship winners are provided opportunities for summer internships at Advanced American. The company helps place the remaining winners in internships with other companies if the students are interested.

"We've had tremendous support from the construction industry," Burch said, "and many of our scholarship winners are out actively in the construction industry doing great things."

In 2006, 11 students were selected from 46 applications to receive the Schweiger scholarships.

The application deadline for Advanced American Construction's 2007 scholarships is Feb. 1. Donations to the fund are accepted at any time.

Winners will receive their scholarships at the Eighth Annual Schweiger Memorial Scholarship Awards Dinner on April 20 at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland.

For additional information on the scholarship program, or to apply, visit the company's Web site at www.callaac.com or call 503-445-9000.

Winners

Recipients of the Schweiger Memorial Scholarship for the 2006-2007 academic year

\$5,000 award

- **Joshua Bowdoin**, Grants Pass, Oregon State University

\$3,000 award

- **Ryan Boone**, Albany, Oregon State
- **Joseph Henry**, Portland, Oregon State
- **Evan Sekulic**, Beaverton, Oregon State

\$2,000 award

- **Jared Hargens**, Corbett, Oregon State
- **Ian Turner**, Newport, Wash., Washington State University
- **Monica Blanchard**, Ketchikan, Alaska, Washington State
- **Eric Nolan**, Yamhill, George Fox University
- **Colby LeClaire**, Vancouver, Brigham Young University
- **Sara Jackson**, Estacada, Portland State University
- **Jake Sannan**, Albany, Oregon State