

Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum awards \$25,000 in academic scholarships

Five TU students benefit from \$5,000 scholarships

TOWSON, Md.—The Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum has awarded five Towson University students \$25,000 in scholarships for the spring 2016 academic term. The Forum's award recognizes seniors Sydney Dinetz and Zachary Sierakowski, junior Hammad Imran, and sophomores Sara Bittner and Jarrett Booz.

Bittner is a declared Computer Science major and Mathematics minor who enjoys programming. She has taken classes in Java and C++ and plans to take a course on the next level of Java. Bittner believes that her minor in mathematics will aid her in programming since both rely on logic and systematic approaches to solve problems.

Booz is a Computer Science major with the Cyber Security track. He would like to eventually work at a Cyber Security Operations Center, which would allow him to gain experience in hacking and defending networks. He would ultimately like to manage projects related to cyber security. Booz also has plans to pursue a Master's degree in the Computer Science/Cyber Security field.

Dinetz is a second-time recipient of the scholarship and carries a combined major of e-Business and Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing, as well as a minor in Jewish Studies. She is interested pursuing a career in digital marketing, and currently works as a Marketing and Communications Intern at Textron Systems where she assists in the creation and planning of their social media strategy.

Imran is an Information Technology major with interests in cyber security. He currently works for Towson University in the networking and cyber security departments where he has gained experience in setting up, maintaining and troubleshooting networks, and monitoring network traffic for malicious activity. He would eventually like to work as a Network Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the National Security Agency and ultimately become a Chief Information Security Officer.

Sierakowski is a declared Computer Science major with a track in Software Engineering. He currently works as a Software Engineering Intern at Sabre Engineering and has a strong interest in problem-solving and coding. During his personal time, he taught himself about iOS programming to implement small individual projects. His future goals include pursuing a Master's degree and becoming a lead software engineer. He would ultimately like to run his own company.

Booz and Dinetz are both members of the Honors College.

“The Towson University student applicants for the Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum Scholarship not only show academic achievement, but show the initiative to be the next group of IT leadership,” said Tom Lonergo, CIO Forum member who served on the scholarship selection committee. “Again this year we had an excellent group of candidates. It was very difficult to select a top five.”

In addition to providing scholarships, the CIO Forum's members look forward to being actively engaged with the students. The award recipients will have the opportunity to participate in Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum meetings during the spring term.

“The Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum has been generously awarding scholarships to our students since the spring of 2006. It is heartening to think about the rich opportunities this partnership has

provided to our students. Their ongoing generosity is deeply appreciated,” said Dr. Maggie Reitz, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum was formed in August 2003, when Towson University’s Division of Innovation and Applied Research entered into a partnership with information technology executives in the Mid-Atlantic region. Its mission is to foster excellence in business and information technology in an environment that promotes educational and networking opportunities for CIO’s facing similar challenges and issues. The forum has offered scholarship awards to students of business, economics and the computer information sciences since spring 2006.