

# Austin Williams

## Polvi Sustainability Scholarship Oregon State University



My name is Austin Williams. I am 21 years old and I am going into my fourth year at Oregon State University in the Professional school for Civil Engineering. I was born and raised in Albany, Oregon, and attended Santiam Christian High School. Involvement with my Church, community service, sports, and extracurricular activities have always been a high priority in my life, providing me with a balanced lifestyle, a variety of experience, and many good friendships.

These sports and activities included: volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, captain of varsity basketball and soccer in high school, President of the National Honor Society, college Younglife, active in my church, biking and running races, backpacking, fishing, hunting, multiple intramural sports at OSU, Co-Captain of the Oregon State Steel Bridge Team, Executive Chairmen of OSU American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

From my first job picking blueberries at age 14 through many more summer jobs and four engineering internships, I have gained invaluable work experience, character and a strong work ethic. These jobs and internships have not only given me exposure to real-world engineering problem solving, but have strengthened and instilled character traits of leadership, initiative, and communication.

My true life passion lies in serving those around me, but also those in need throughout third world countries. I have been blessed with opportunities to serve, construct, and teach in Mexico, China, Haiti, and Nicaragua. These trips have brought to light how truly spoiled I am living in the states, and how much I take for granted the roof over my head, three meals a day, and even the hope of a college education. My ultimate life/career goal is to take advantage of all the resources I have here, while sharpening my engineering skills, so that one day I can bless those who are less fortunate and increase their standard of living.

I am very grateful for the scholarships that the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association offers to civil-engineering students. The Ron Polvi Scholarship is an incredible blessing that will help further my education, and help me gain the skills needed to achieve my ultimate life/career goal. Thank you.