West Virginia University Student, a Glen Dale Native, Among Four to Earn Summer Research Fellowship

Four West Virginia University students will spend their summers researching thermodynamic models, new material for aircraft under impact, glass in crime scene evidence and the dynamics of how proteins change.

Baker, of Glen Dale, will be stationed in Boulder. A senior majoring in chemical engineering in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, he participated in WVU’s research apprenticeship program in spring and fall 2018, and presented his research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April.

His research will focus on validating current thermodynamic models using the stability and oxidation properties of materials. Baker plans to pursue a doctorate in chemical engineering before pursuing employment researching with NIST.

“It’s a huge step forward,” Baker said. “NIST is renowned for rehiring their applicants if you do a good job, so this is kind of like the first step on hopefully the rest of my life.”

NIST is a federal agency that develops technology, metrics and standards that are the basis for innovation and industrial competitiveness.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship seeks to inspire undergraduate students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers through research experience.

Read the full story.

Complete the Engineering Team With NICET Certification

In the late 1950s, as the US came to rely more heavily on machines and automation, technically skilled workers who could support the work of engineers were in high demand. In 1961, NSPE rose to the challenge by forming an
organization to certify technicians and technologists.

But even though technicians have been an integral part of the engineering team and NSPE since then, that organization—the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies—is not always understood by PEs. A well-attended, NSPE-sponsored webinar on May 29 provided the full picture.

During the webinar, “Quality and Safety Through a Qualified Engineering Team,” NICET Communications Director Chip Hollis detailed the institute’s operations and the technician’s role on the team. NICET was founded to recognize the qualifications of technicians. Its focus, Hollis explained, helps ensure a qualified engineering workforce, certifying both engineering technicians and technologists in areas such as construction materials testing, transportation construction inspection, electrical power, fire protection, and security systems.

Don't Miss This Upcoming Webinar

Stay current with essential professional development opportunities through NSPE webinars. Members receive a special rate on the upcoming live webinar:

On June 26 at 2 p.m., the webinar The Saint Joseph Water Crisis – Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure will focus on a water crisis in Saint Joseph, Louisiana, which lends many lessons related to the difficulties faced by small and large water systems in rural environments. In this session, David A. Martin, P.E., will present an overview of the state of the town’s water system prior to and after construction, as well as an overview of the new treatment process and applicability to other aquifer systems. Additionally, participants will be presented with the lessons learned during the crisis, including regulatory involvement, use of multiple funding sources, early owner procurement of long lead time equipment, and alternate project delivery.

Don't Miss...
• **Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws.** NSPE has updated this report, with information current as of May 2019. It is free for members.

• **Take Action on Licensure Exemption Bills.** It’s imperative that lawmakers hear from their professional engineering constituents who support bills in the US House and Senate targeting licensure exemptions in public utility pipeline work.

• **PECON at a Glance.** Take a look at the lineup of activities and educational sessions taking place at the 2019 Professional Engineers Conference in Kansas City.