



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, Alabama 36830
Voice: 334-887-4581
Email: Amelia.Dortch@al.usda.gov
Web: <http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov>

News Release

Release No.: 0000025.18

Contact:
Amelia Hines Dortch, (334) 887-4581
Amelia.Dortch@al.usda.gov

Auburn University's Beth Prior Named Alabama Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarship Recipient

AUBURN, Ala., August 24, 2018– Auburn University (AU) senior, Beth Prior, has been named the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2018 Scholarship Recipient. Prior, of Auburn,



Auburn University's Beth Prior (middle) accepts check from Alabama SWCS member Leah Duzy (left). Auburn University's Dr. Frances O'Donnell (far left) and Department Chair, Dr. Andrzej Nowak (right) are also pictured.

Alabama, is the recipient of the \$2,000 academic scholarship that will help her as she continues to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn's College of Engineering.

Prior's interest in conservation led her to pursue a degree focused on creating engineering technologies to preserve and protect natural resources around the world. Raised by parents committed to teaching her about nature and the environment, Prior always knew that she wanted to do her part to preserve the environment.

"My interest and emotional connection to the environment set the foundation for my future education and career goals," Prior said.

This summer, Prior traveled to two countries, 7,000 miles apart, to learn more about how civil engineering impacts developing countries. She learned how land development impacts air temperature in Costa Rica and how deforestation has caused landslide problems in the "*land of a thousand hills*", Rwanda.

"Civil engineers in the United States are traditionally known for slapping down concrete, clearing a site of all natural features or building unnecessary parking lots. It is my hope that my generation of civil engineers can redefine what our field, industry and academia, is all about. In my opinion, conservation must always be considered as a civil engineer," Prior explained.

-More-

Kathy Gotcher, President of the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society said, "We were very impressed with Beth's commitment to learning how her role as a civil engineer can help solve conservation issues. A hard worker who is passionate about her field, we knew that she would take full advantage of our annual scholarship to further her education."

The Alabama Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society offers a scholarship to one student enrolled in an Alabama college or university. Since 2010, the society has provided eight scholarships to college students.

The Alabama Chapter of SWCS fosters the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment.

For more information about the scholarship, please visit the Alabama Chapter of SWCS website:
<http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/scholarship.php>.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).