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**More than \$216k Awarded in Directed Energy Focused Graduate Research Grants for
2024-2025 Academic Year**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Sept. 17 - The Directed Energy Professional Society's (DEPS) Board of Scientific & Engineering Advisors (BSEA) as well as its Executive Director, Harry Sinsheimer, proudly announced today the DEPS graduate scholars for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Twenty-five students representing 14 different universities were awarded up to \$10,000 in research grants to continue studying in directed energy (DE) technology areas. Candidates for the award must be full-time graduate students who are currently studying high energy laser (HEL), high power microwave (HPM), ultra-short pulse laser (USPL) or counter DE weapon (CDEW) technologies.

Kristin Chapman of Clemson University was selected for the prestigious Dr. Samuel Blankenship DE Scholar Award, for her research on athermal optical fibers. This is a \$10,000 award granted annually to the individual with the overall outstanding research grant application.

Sachin Shah of the University of Maryland was selected for the Dr. Jack Slater Award, for his research on adaptive wavefront shaping. Another coveted award also granted annually.

Other 2024-25 graduate scholars include: Jacob Barker, University of Arizona (USPL); Timothy Bate, University of Central Florida (HEL); Ryan Beneck, Pennsylvania State University (HPM); Timothy Bukowski, University of Notre Dame (HEL); Kaitie Butler, University of Missouri – Kansas City (HPM); Jennifer Campbell, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (HEL); Caleb Dobias, University of Central

Florida (HEL); Joshua Follansbee, University of Arizona (HEL); Mitchell Grose, University of Dayton (HEL); Micah Haack, Pennsylvania State University (HPM); Angus Hendrick, University of Arizona (USPL); Charles Hooper, University of New Mexico (USPL); John Hunt, University of Minnesota (HEL); Nicolaus Jennings, University of Texas at Arlington (HPM); Simeon Karnes, University of Missouri – Kansas City (HPM); Kevin Lindstrom, University of Connecticut (HEL); Michael Mounho, Texas Tech University (HPM); Jackson Nicastro, Pennsylvania State University (CDEW); LaShae Smith of University of Central Florida (USPL); Austin Stark, University of Missouri – Kansas City (HPM); Owen Thome, University of Central Florida (USPL); Nicholas Vail, University of Central Florida (HEL); and Travis Wright, Texas Tech University (HPM).

“These students exemplify some of the best and brightest with research topics that span HEL, HPM, USPL, CDEW technologies and the many related technical topics necessary to make these, and future, systems functional. We extend our appreciation to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OSD R&E) JDETO and ONR for their generous contributions to support these grants. With greater than 90% retention rate, these grants are preparing a new generation of valued contributors to the Directed Energy community,” said Dr. Lawrence Grimes, DEPS Board of Directors Liaison to the BSEA.

The Directed Energy Professional Society fosters research, development, and transition of directed energy technologies, including high energy laser and high-power microwave technologies, for national defense and civilian applications through professional communication and education. For more information, visit www.deps.org.

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