

## News Release

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2300 N Street NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC • 20037  
[www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org)

Tel. 202-736-5800 • Fax 202-467-0790

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Follow us on Twitter:** @AspenHigherEd #STScholars  
**Contact:** Brittney Davidson  
202-736-3504 | [Brittney.Davidson@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:Brittney.Davidson@aspeninstitute.org)

### **Five Students from South Central College Selected as Siemens Technical Scholars for Outstanding Performance and Leadership in STEM Fields**

*The 2018- 2019 Siemens Technical Scholars Class Includes 44 Students from Across the Country Who Are Preparing for High-Demand, Skilled Jobs in Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, Healthcare, and Information Technology*

**Washington, DC, September 24, 2018** – The Aspen Institute and the Siemens Foundation have named five students of South Central College as 2018-2019 Siemens Technical Scholars. The prestigious Siemens Technical Scholars awards recognize an exceptional group of diverse students from across the country who demonstrates the rewarding careers and opportunities that result from completing excellent STEM programs. This cycle's 44 Scholars will go on to serve as ambassadors for their programs and their respective fields.

The Siemens Technical Scholars are chosen by Aspen in partnership with the community and technical colleges that win the Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award. The 43 programs honored since the awards launched in 2015 do an exceptional job preparing students to launch directly into technical careers with wages that enable them to support a family. These colleges partner with employers to offer students in-demand credentials and teach the necessary skills with rigor.

"In the digital economy, going to college and the American dream are more tightly linked than ever before," said Barbara Humpton, CEO of Siemens USA and chair of the

Siemens Foundation. “And in this unique moment, one of the smartest choices someone can make is to pursue technical education through a community college.”

South Central College’s Machine Tool Technology program was awarded \$25,000 to support scholarships for the following Siemens Technical Scholars:

- Christopher Werth indicated the scholarship is helping eliminate the financial burden of going to school and allowing him to attain his goals in school and beyond.
- Benjamin Allen shared that the scholarship has taken a huge load off his shoulders and he is beyond honored to have been chosen as a recipient.
- Hayden Kanne said the scholarship means he can stay focused on school and be more concerned with finishing projects than worrying about how he is going to pay for a semester of college.
- Kendrick Steuck shared that with a wedding and home to pay for he does not think he would be in school without the scholarship.
- Andrea Hoffman said the higher focus on education that the scholarship allows enables her to work with her instructors longer and learn about more complex topics in the trade.

South Central College’s Machine Tool Technology program was honored for combining classroom and hands-on education by offering students customized training and valuable apprenticeships that allow students to work part-time for an area manufacturer while earning a degree. Students enroll in clearly defined pathways, creating efficient paths to provide skilled workers to meet the immediate needs of area industries. All graduates must complete a semester-long internship, cultivating both the technical skills and professional skills needed for employment.

In the coming years, demand for STEM skills will continue to grow. Some estimates show as many as 26 million jobs in the United States will require significant STEM knowledge, representing nearly 20 percent of all U.S. jobs. Employers are having trouble finding qualified people to fill these spots. Pursing an in-demand, technical STEM career like those the Siemens Technical Scholars have selected—in health care, energy, information technology, and advanced manufacturing—is an impactful way for Americans to achieve economic mobility. More than half of STEM jobs across the United States require only an associate degree and pay, on average, more than \$50,000 a year.

“Too often, we fail to connect the incredible talent in communities with the rewarding careers available right now,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program at the Aspen Institute. “The exceptional and diverse 2019 class of Siemens Technical Scholars embody those connections. Their hard work in excellent community college programs has not just launched them on strong careers but serves as a model for how America can develop the talent it needs to continue to grow economically.”

**The Aspen College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Siemens Technical Scholars Program, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses. For more information, visit <http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/> and follow CEP at @AspenHigherEd.

**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, D.C.; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).

**The Siemens Foundation** has invested more than \$115 million in the United States to advance workforce development and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math. The Siemens Foundation's mission is inspired by the culture of innovation, research, and continuous learning that is the hallmark of Siemens' companies. Together, the programs at the Siemens Foundation are closing the opportunity gap for young people in the United States when it comes to STEM careers, and igniting and sustaining today's STEM workforce and tomorrow's scientists and engineers. For further information, visit <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/> or follow @sfoundation. Follow the Siemens Foundation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**South Central College (SCC)** is a comprehensive community and technical college that is part of the Minnesota State system with campuses in Faribault and North Mankato. The college offers programs that prepare students to immediately start a rewarding career after graduation or transfer to a 4-year institution to pursue a bachelor's degree. In addition, SCC's Center for Business and Industry provides businesses and professionals with customized training and continuing education opportunities. SCC is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer/Educator. For more information visit [www.southcentral.edu](http://www.southcentral.edu).