

## 2020 AOC NY Metro Chapter Scholarships – ‘Above and Beyond During COVID’

The Metropolitan Club Chapter of the Association of Old Crows has awarded STEM scholarships to worthy students for over five decades. In a typical year, the chapter has awarded two or three scholarships to proven STEM students in colleges and universities across the Metropolitan area in New York City, New Jersey and New York State. Though as we all know, 2020 is not a typical year.



COVID-19 changed many things this year. Many students are studying remotely, and even if studying on campus, masks, social distancing, and virus testing have become lead considerations and part of the daily routine. With COVID-19, though, one thing has not changed. Students still need to pay tuition, even if their school experience is fully or partially remote. However, in far too many cases, that burden is coupled with added pressure, as a result of COVID-19, on the students and their families to make ends meet. COVID-19 impacts included many students losing their part time work, not getting paid summer internships, or worst of all, entire families having to cut back due to lost employment or fewer hours for the parents. All of this is making that tuition bill seem,

more than ever, a luxury. Yet we know that what our nation needs is more high performing STEM graduates to address the many challenges of the future, not less.

As with many large gatherings, this event was cancelled. Fortunately, the chapter was able to overcome all of these challenges in atypical fashion and exceed the planned 2020 scholarship awards. This year, the chapter was able to not only overcome challenges of COVID-19 on all fronts, but also increase this year's investment in STEM education through additional scholarships. The generous support of **NORTHROP GRUMMAN, BAE SYSTEMS, L3HARRIS and COMTECH PST**, coupled with the personal donations of chapter members, made all of this possible and created something good out of the challenges of COVID-19.

As a result of these efforts, the chapter is happy to report it has awarded four scholarships this year to Alfred Barlotta (\$5,000 / Stony Brook University), Tejinder Mann (\$5,000 / New York Institute of Technology), Eric Ciccotelli (\$2,500 / Manhattan College), and Jason Huang (\$2,500 / Stony Brook University). All are pursuing degrees in either electrical engineering or computer science. As is typical in this year of COVID-19, a Zoom award virtual ceremony was held on 12 November 2020 to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of these students and give the chapter the ability to gather.