

Established 1928

Newsletter

Federal Water Quality Association

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation; www.fwqa-dc.org

2022-23 Theme - Dollars & Sense of Our Nation's Water Infrastructure



Jones Addresses Roles to Ensure Equity in Urban Water Systems *by K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.*

Our second webinar of the year took place on November 10, 2022 with a presentation by Dr. Kimberly Jones, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Howard University. Dr. Christian Davies-Venn serving as host and moderator, introduced Dr. Jones to present her topic, "Environmental Justice: Role of Science, Engineering, and Policy in Ensuring Equity in Urban Water Systems."



Presenter on November 10, Dr. Kimberly Jones (above) holds a B.S in Civil Engineering from Howard University, a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Jones began by stressing that environmental justice (EJ) within the framework of science and engineering involves much more than technical work. It means being personally involved with communities and to make sure solutions are being implemented in an equitable manner. She highlighted the gravity of the situation in developing countries by reminding us that a child dies from water related illness every 2 minutes.

Kimberly touched on the various issues around EJ and environmental equity (EE) in the water sector. Urban environments, particularly rapidly developing centers such as the Washington, DC area are excellent testbeds to develop systemic equitable access to environmental services, such as green infrastructure and safe, reliable drinking water. Science and engineering solutions must be integrated with policy in order to conceptualize and implement solutions that meet the needs of disparate and competing jurisdictions. Also, these solutions must be communicated effectively to all stakeholders.

Dr. Jones cited many figures, including that *(Continued on Page 3)*

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President's Corner

Welcome to this edition of our FQWA newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2022, we reflect on the things we have been able to accomplish this year and look forward to the exciting programs we have planned for the new season. For the first time this year, FWQA participated as an Exhibitor at the Tri-Association conference in Ocean City, MD (August 30 – September 2) which was a great success. We continue our popular online webinar series with distinguished invited speakers to discuss relevant and timely topics of interest. In September Dr. Charles Glass, Director of Maryland Environmental Service, discussed “Water Resources in the State of Maryland: Issues and Challenges in Protecting the Chesapeake Bay.” In November, Dr. Kimberly Jones of Howard University gave an insightful presentation on “Environmental Justice: Role of Science, Engineering, and Policy in Ensuring Equity in Urban Water Systems.” To wrap up the year, on December 8th, Dr. Beverley Stinson and Mr. John Dorman of AECOM will present “Global Water Challenges in a Net-Zero Carbon World”. Other webinar topics being planned for 2023 include Cybersecurity, Stormwater, Water Reuse, among others. Look out for more information and announcements about these webinars and other events.

In this newsletter are the official results of our annual FWQA elections for 2022-2023 slate of officers (see page 9). We currently have a few vacant positions on our Board. Please consider serving in any of these positions. We offer opportunities to serve in various other positions including Membership Committee Chair, Webinar Coordinator, Webmaster, Social Media Chair, and Recruitment Chair. FWQA members can also get involved by volunteering as a Science Fair Judge, Scholarship Application Reviewer, Webinar Coordinator, Videographer, Event Planner, and more. If you are skilled in any of these areas or you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Jim Wheeler or me at fwqadc@gmail.com.

Finally, I know we are all eager to see each other again in person. We look forward to resuming our usual face-to-face events as soon as possible. As always, we welcome your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and ideas. Please feel free to contact me at fwqadc@gmail.com. Meanwhile, be safe, keep well, and enjoy the newsletter. Lastly, my sincere thanks to our Board, sponsors, members, and volunteers for their hard work, support, commitment, and dedicated service during the year.

We hope you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for the Holiday Season.

Christian Davies-Venn, PhD, PE, BCEE, D.WRE, F.ASCE

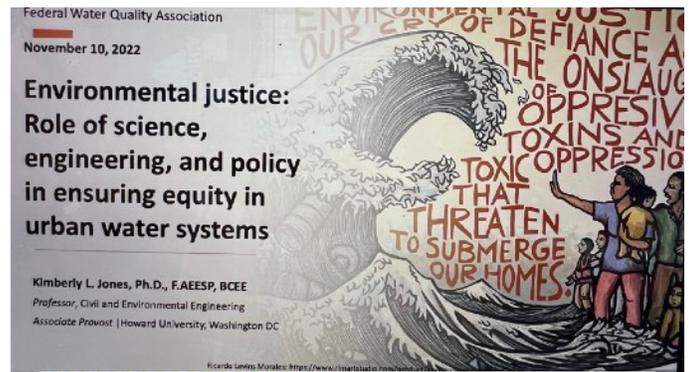
Jones Addresses Roles.. (Continued from Page 1)

at least a \$384 billion investment is needed by U.S. water utilities in the next decade. She made the argument that water justice challenges are pervasive in the continental U.S. Kimberly characterized in a sweeping general and broad overview the nature of the pollution challenges in the northeast (coal ash, lead, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), unpiped communities (UPC)); southeast (coal ash, PFAS,UPC); midwest and north central (mining wastes, PFAS); south central (nitrates,UPC); southwest (nitrates, arsenic); and the northwest (arsenic, bacteria).

The goals of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA) and the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) include swimmable, fishable & drinkable waters. There are approximately 151,000 public water systems in the U.S. providing drinking water to more than 250 million people. Three (3) to 8 percent of water systems in the U.S., despite regulations cannot comply. These non-compliant utilities are in areas with rural low incomes and sometimes in rural high incomes where they tend to rack up the violations. Dr. Jones cited water inequities especially in households without piped water access in the U.S., citing 2013 to 2017 statistics.

In 1982 EJ came into perspective where a community in North Carolina in Warren County protested a proposal to have a polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) landfill in their community. Unfortunately, they didn't stop it, and the environmental hazard was placed in the midst of their community despite their objections. She also gave additional examples of inequities such as the placement of coal ash surface impoundments & their associated contaminants in a community in North Carolina, citing the Appalachian Voices reference, which has been the region's grassroots advocate for healthy communities. She remarked that EJ & EE are closely related (see slide at right). She cited the US EPA estimate that at least 1.5 million people of color live in the catchment areas of coal ash surface impoundments at 277 power plants throughout the country. She cited the Flint Michigan "road to recovery" and the water quality and lead pipe replacement issues, and how they affect people of color and minorities. She summed this up to focus how these collective inequities foster a lack of public trust in the safety of the public water supply.

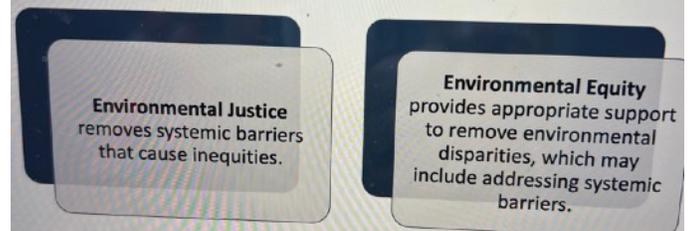
Dr. Jones cited the executive orders (EO) such as



What is Environmental Justice?

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of *all people* with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Environmental Justice and Environmental Equity are closely related



Highlights (Screenshots) from November 10, 2022 Webinar Presentation

EO 12898 and EO 14008 Justice 40 Initiative, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). EO 12898 directs each federal agency to avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income & minority populations. EO 14008 tackles the worldwide climate change crisis at home and abroad. She mentioned the use EJSCREEN, EPA's EJ Screening Tool, as well as issues with PFAS exposure in the context of the workplace, ingestion in food, and in drinking water, but also in the context of exposure that disproportionately affects communities living near industrial areas. (Continued on Page 4)

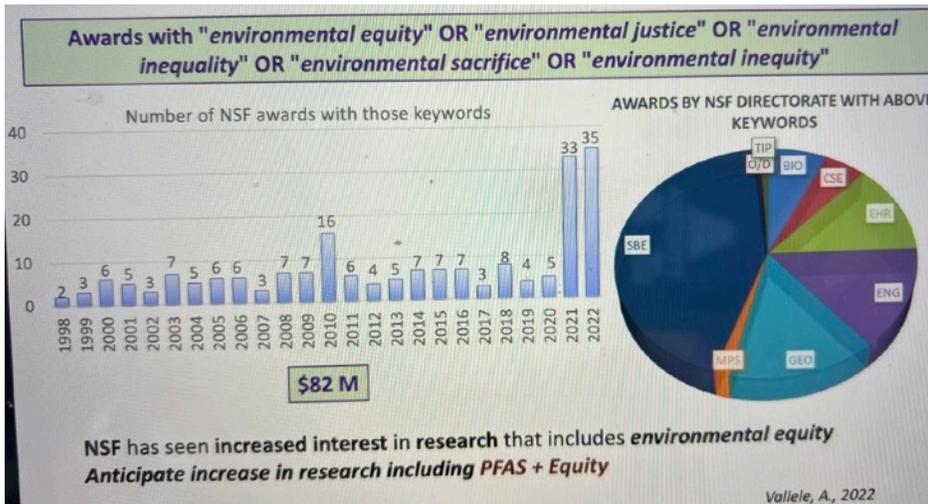
Jones Addresses Roles (Continued from Page 3)

To address the question of “What can we do?” she cited research and the need for technical people in academia, industry, governmental organizations, and not-for-profits to work with policy makers and community stakeholders. Together they could work to solve these seemingly intractable problems to address the need to identify key targets for improvements. Kimberly looked at the research awards granted by NSF to a variety of research institutions from 1998 through 2022 as a possible base for resource material in this area (see webinar screenshot below).

To address how Tribal Nations figure in EJ efforts, Kimberly said that we should be working with federally recognized tribes and other indigenous communities to develop effective, equitable solutions. One issue that disproportionately affects indigenous communities is lack of indoor plumbing, for example. There has been a lot of work to figure out such things as “un-piped communities,” that is, no water pipes and the prevalence of arsenic, lead and other pollutants, and we must try to reach

out to these vulnerable communities. Lower income households are more susceptible to a lack of piped water access regardless of differences in household characteristics, race & regional wealth. Urban households headed by people of color are almost 35% more likely to lack piped water compared to white, non-Hispanic households.

Dr. Christian Davies-Venn began questions by asking about the progress to date of achieving diversity, equity and inclusion in the water sector, and the need to work more vigorously in order to recruit more diverse engineers and scientists. In the water sector, it was recognized that the issues involving water are not evenly distributed and socio-economic issues do become important. An informative session with questions and discussion on policies followed on EJ screening tools, green infrastructure, food security, emerging contaminants in water treatment, and future scenarios like the water issues in Jackson, Mississippi. Christian thanked Dr. Jones, made closing remarks, thanked everyone for participating, and invited everyone to offer feedback and take the survey at fwqa-dc@gmail.com.



Dr. Jones conveyed that we (academia and researchers, as well as regulators and policy makers) should think about EJ & EE early-on in the research and partner with our colleagues in the social sciences areas. There are concepts of distributive, procedural, and contextual equity in the New York City area, for instance. She also cited opportunities in the water and climate community to co-design and co-produce equity in the front end of the process, and the need for a framework for partnerships. She focused on university and Industry partnerships, such as with DC Water, the River Network, Urban Waters, Blue Water Baltimore, and other grassroots organizations to address EJ & EE challenges. She cited collaborative water management such as what is found with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, and emphasized that early proactive community engagement is key to effective research and remediation efforts.



Glass Enlightens on Infrastructure Efforts to Improve Bay Waters *By K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.*

Dr. Charles Glass, Executive Director of the Maryland Environmental Services (MES) was the guest speaker for our first virtual presentation of the new year on September 22, 2022 to discuss the issues and challenges faced by MES to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Moderator, Ms. Lydia Johnson opened the meeting and introduced our President, Dr. Christian Davies-Venn, to make opening remarks, welcome everyone, and introduce Dr. Glass (see insert on page 5 for Dr. Glass' background).

In his remarks, Charles introduced the audience to what MES does as an independent agency of the State of Maryland to solve environmental problems. Their motto is "Environmental Solutions for a Better Tomorrow." Currently MES has 720 employees and 60 vacancies.

Chartered as a not-for-profit business in the State of Maryland, MES

project managers and technical specialists currently handle over 1,000 projects in every county across the State of Maryland. MES' operating revenues exceeded \$160 million last fiscal year. Approximately 2/3 of revenues flows back to the private sector. More than 29% of the contracts issued are awarded to minority business enterprises. MES has tremendous team diversity and a great work culture.

Dr. Glass touched on a number of projects undertaken by MES which ultimately help with water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. For instance, some projects dealing with environmental dredging and restoration (EDR) involved dredged materials management, as well as remediation and development services. MES provides storm water management (SWM) services as well as managing major facilities, such as the Hawkins Point Landfill & the Dundalk Marine Terminal, both in the Port of Baltimore.

The MES' major service areas are in the area of Environmental Operations (EO), Technical and Environmental Services (TES), and water and wastewater (W&WW) design, construction, management, and operations. After introducing the major service areas Charles reviewed what activities each service area performs, discussed the agency's mission and strategic plan, and provided history on the establishment of the MES. Currently, MES operates hundreds of plants

across the state, including at the Eastern Correctional Institution. All plants are required to utilize membrane bioreactors for enhanced nitrogen & phosphorus removal and utilize ultra violet (UV) disinfection.

Dr. Glass then focused on specific activities which contribute to protection of the Chesapeake Bay. First, he mentioned the Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) which is the largest plant MES helped to manage to date at 180 MGD. This plant was failing in its performance and compliance, and had lots of solids passing through to the Chesapeake Bay. There was a lot of focused activity needed in a short timeframe to turn this facility around. Ben Grumbles, Maryland's Secretary of the Environment at that time, asked MES to "step in" to bring the Back River WWTP into compliance because it was a serious Baltimore City compliance problem. A local nonprofit organization, Blue Water Baltimore, was also helpful in the effort. Charles was honored to be a part of this success. At the time, out of 11 operating tanks, only two were functioning at the Back River WWTP. MES quickly "triaged" the plant, brought in 15 operators which included the best biosolids people in Maryland. MES refurbished the operations within 60 days to get the plant into compliance. That included getting the anaerobic digesters, centrifuges & other critical equipment in working order. MES brought experienced staff to help create a solid
(Continued on Page 6)



About Dr. Charles Glass... Dr. Charles Glass is a long-standing FWQA Member and Past President of FWQA. Dr. Glass discovered his interest in the field of environmental engineering after his junior year in high school, acquired a college education, & is highly accomplished and recognized as an expert in stormwater management, green infrastructure, waste water management and water resources, as well as transportation infrastructure. In 2010, Dr. Glass served in the US EPA Permits Division for 9 months and taught on the Civil & Environmental Engineering faculty at Howard University. In June of 2016, Dr. Glass, a native of Washington, DC who was raised mostly in Montgomery County MD, was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to lead in the environmental area as Assistant Secretary of the MD Department of Transportation, which had a large source of funds in meeting goals to clean the Chesapeake Bay.

Glass Enlightens... (Continued. from Page 5)

partnership going forward and utilized unique procurement abilities to help improve and stabilize the environmental situation, providing needed operations and maintenance expertise to improve effluent quality. At this plant MES currently has 150 staff on duty.

Second, Charles touched on innovative management of Biochar, an inert, pathogen free, carbon-rich product of pyrolysis, which is considered "carbon neutral." Biochar stores a stable form of carbon in the soil for many years. Biochar can be used as a soil conditioner to enhance beneficial reuse of dredged material. Biochar helps meet the Maryland 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act goals of 50% reduction by 2030 & reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2045. Biochar has potential markets as a soil conditioner for the urban agriculture, landscaping and for home gardeners.

Third, Dr. Glass touched on the Conowingo Dam, which was a "challenge project" when he came to MES. In the fall of 2021, MES successfully completed the dredging portion of the Conowingo Sediment Characterization and Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Pilot Project, which required dredging up to 1,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Susquehanna River upstream of the Conowingo Dam. The sediment sampling and analysis was completed in the fall/winter of 2020 which resulted in a Final Sediment Characterization Report in the summer of 2021. To make a difference, Pennsylvania needs to stop the flow of sediments into the Susquehanna River from various activities upstream, especially from the agricultural sector.

Finally, Charles touched on the \$1.9 trillion

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 economic stimulus bill. He estimated that the Maryland Department of the Environment will receive approximately \$879 million over 5 years. A Q&A session followed. Questions dealt with a variety of topics including the distressed crab population in the Chesapeake Bay, the concern for climate change effects and sea level rise in the Chesapeake Bay, the food waste program, how MES facilitates government contracts for various facilities and entities, and how the Port of Baltimore partners with MES. Charles indicated that MES facilitates almost everything & brings in faster deliveries & services for clients. He also touched on how MES can help smaller jurisdictions to deliver results more effectively as they focus in on defining the scope of work to pinpoint in on solving problems for local jurisdictions.

There was a discussion on hazardous materials that may be in the sediments behind the Conowingo Dam. A discussion followed on beneficial uses of sediment, such as making bricks for construction material, supplementing concrete, possible uses of dredged material for soil cover and shore mitigation, as well as for highway construction by making pavers from dredged material.

Dr. Davies-Venn thanked Dr. Glass for the excellent presentation and discussion. He provided closing remarks, touching upon a variety of opportunities to engage with the FWQA in the various programs and thanked the moderator, Ms. Johnson. He then encouraged participants to complete the post webinar survey at fwqa-dc@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS

A Feature Capturing Thoughts and Reflections on People, Programs, and Activities in the Water Resource Arena by Esteemed Professionals



Photo By Mary B. Klein

Reflections on a Significant Anniversary by Mary Belefski Klein, DPA

October 18, 2022. *For me, this date isn't a significant personal anniversary (although October 19th celebrates our marriage). However, this October 18 is significant to everyone in the United States because it marked the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, (CWA) which changed the course for the protection of our Nation's water resources. Nationwide celebrations abounded. Since I spent over half of my life working as a water and environmental resource professional, I decided to reflect on the accomplishments and celebrate them by attending several events. I don't know if you had a chance to attend or participate in any of the many celebratory events, so I would like to share my reflections from the virtual world and the Charlottesville area, and hope you can spend some time to pause and reflect on the 50th Anniversary too.*

My first event was to attend the virtual presentation by the EPA Alumni Association. This Herculean two panel effort had so many familiar faces, albeit a little older, from vintage EPA Office of Water days and also included statements by the current leadership. Rather than elaborate, I'll just mention the cast and say that the entire event was well done and brought back many professional memories on all the accomplishments made for our water environment. The entire event can be viewed at <https://www.epaalumni.com/cwa50>. The cast included: Master of Ceremonies - Robert Wayland; Guest welcome video - Radhika Fox (Current EPA Office of Water's Assistant Administrator); Panel Moderators - David Ulrich and Alexis Strauss; Panel Members providing CWA reflections - Panel 1 - Ben Grumbles, Dale Bryson, James Hanlon, Ken Norton, and LaJuana Wilcher; Panel 2 - Kristy Bulleit, Jeff Ever, and Nancy Stoner. Recognize anyone??

In keeping with discussing the continual controversies associated with the CWA, the University of Virginia's Office of Engagement also hosted an event entitled "The Clean Water Act at 50: New Challenges Around the Bend." The speakers, Jonathan Cannon, Karen McGlathery, and Cale Jaffe discussed the CWA lawsuit out of Idaho, Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. To close the day I attended a fun event sponsored by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA) celebrating its volunteers and the CWA at the Eastwood Farm and Winery. Jon Cannon and Robbi Savage (Pictured below along with a celebratory cake) made remarks on the CWA and accomplishments done by volunteers and staff of RCA. Truly a reflective day to remember!





In Memory of a Dedicated Water Resource Professional

K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.

Contributed to this Dedication Article



DR. GEORGE WILLIAM SCHLOSSNAGLE, Jr. **(April 7, 1946 – April 21, 2022)**

During the past year, we lost a dedicated water resource professional who contributed to protect our nation's waters and our country. May light shine on him as we honor his career and life efforts.



George William Schlossnagle, Jr. passed away on April 21st, 2022, at peace and with his wife Sherry at his side at the age of 76. He remained positive and in good humor despite living with chronic pain as a Disabled Veteran (neuropathy from exposure to Agent Orange during his military service in Vietnam) and a Parkinson's sufferer. George would be buried at Arlington Cemetery with full military honors.

Our FWQA colleague & friend, Dr./Col. (Retired) George W. Schlossnagle, Jr. was always so supportive of FWQA while he was active and before his illness took its toll on him. George was President of FWQA from 1986 to 1987, and FWQA Director to the WEF Board of Control from 1989-1992. He was known as our "fun & social" President, because he encouraged us to engage in celebratory activities as well as the normal venue of our academic and professional and networking luncheon programs for our members, which under his guidance we continued a long and storied tradition. We even formed the Charter FWQA 5S Chapter (Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers) while Col. Schlossnagle was FWQA President. Our inaugural FWQA 5S Chapter was started on November 15, 1986, at the FWQA's first Annual Awards Banquet. It was in the third 5S class in 1988 at the Annual Awards Banquet where we honored Col. George as a fellow 5Ser, Always a supporter of FWQA, while working at the Department of Energy, George would always walk from work to the infamous Channel Inn to attend the FWQA meetings.

Another special memory I have of Col. George is that he was encouraging us to launch the FWQA into the outreach efforts to judge regional science fairs in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, which included Washington, DC, and the Virginia and Maryland suburban communities. George had a passion for us to "*make a difference*" and to do meaningful outreach to young people. He was effective, forceful, and convincing in the delivery of his convictions at the FWQA Board meetings which we held at the US EPA Headquarters in Southwest DC just a short walk to the Anacostia waterfront. His desire to reach out to young people was discussed at the FWQA Board meetings when he was our President. We all got on board with Col. George that our FWQA Board should "make a difference!" George thought that the local schools were a perfect venue to reach out and recognize budding young scientists and engineers and that we should also consider awarding college scholarships. George urged us to start the scholarships as an "experimental" program and see where it would take us. Well, his vision really stuck, and we have been doing this since the late 1980's - - - over three decades! We have expanded our college scholarships to four and this past year we voted to award a special 5th \$2,000 college scholarship. We will always remember Dr./Col. George W. Schlossnagle, Jr and his contributions to FWQA.

Election Results

The FWQA is pleased to announce the official results of the 2022-2023 Executive Board elections. The Executive Board serves from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

President	Christian Davies-Venn
President -Elect	Tessa Roscoe
Vice-President	Joe Ford
Secretary	Sharon Nye
Treasurer	Jim Wheeler
WEF Delegate	Greg Mallon
Past President	Janet Goodwin

Four additional at large members are appointed by the President to make up the full FWQA Executive Board.

Current At-Large Members are:

Mary Klein
Jack Kooyoomjian
Erika Janifer
John Tucker

The FWQA is seeking members interested in serving on the Executive Board for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

If you are interested in serving as an officer or committee member, please contact the FWQA at fwqadc@gmail.com



National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund Pledge Card

The Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) is a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF). WEF is a world leader in water quality and environmental stewardship.

The WEF established the National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund in 1991. The scholarship fund provides funding to local graduating high school seniors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that will be attending colleges or universities with an environmental, water resources, or other related curriculum. Since the inception of the scholarship program, the fund has awarded over 80 scholarships, totaling more than \$100,000.

The merit scholarships are awarded based on the applicant's academic achievements and essay demonstration, and the applicant's commitment to environmental stewardship at school, at home, and in the community.

The goal of the scholarship program is to support and encourage students to pursue careers in the water industry, and to become young professionals with the knowledge to tackle the future global challenges of protecting public health and the environment.

We need your help to make this happen. The scholarship fund runs solely on donations from corporations, members, and individuals. You can make a pledge by filling out the information below and mailing it the FWQA.

The FWQA is a technical/educational professional organization and is designated by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive an acknowledgement and an IRS W9 form for your records.

If you need more information about the FWQA scholarship fund, please contact Jim Wheeler, FWQA Treasurer, at fwqaboard@gmail.com.

To make your pledge to the National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund - Please provide the following information and mail it to: FWQA Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 14303, Washington, DC 20044. We will mail you an invoice for your pledge amount.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Pledge level (check appropriate box):

Sponsor - \$2,000*

Platinum Level - \$1,500

Gold level - \$1,000

Silver Level - \$500

Bronze Level - \$100

Other (please specify) _____

Alternatively, you can also mail your donation check made out to the FWQA Scholarship Fund to P.O. Box 14303, Washington, DC 20044.

All donors will be listed on the FWQA web site, included in all FWQA newsletters, and recognized at the scholarship awards luncheon.

*Sponsors will also be invited to participate in the scholarship selection process and will be invited to attend the scholarship awards luncheon to present the scholarship to the selected recipient.