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National Science Foundation Recognizes Michael Kuhn

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – The National Science Foundation (NSF) named Michael Kuhn to its prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Kuhn, a 2016 mechanical engineering graduate from Ona, West Virginia, will attend Cornell University in the fall to begin his studies toward a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited institutions in the United States.

Recipients benefit from a three-year annual stipend of $34,000 along with a $12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees (paid to the institution). This year the NSF received more than 17,000 applications for the program and handed out just 2,000 awards.

In order to receive the NSF Fellowship, Kuhn was required to submit an essay outlining his career goals and how he would help further engineering education. He was also required to provide letters of recommendation from professors and other industry professionals.

“This is a highly competitive fellowship,” said Kuhn. “I am extremely grateful and excited for the opportunities it will provide.”

In addition to the award from the NSF, Kuhn will also benefit from Cornell’s program, which guarantees funding for any amount not covered by outside sources. Cornell’s graduate engineering program is ranked 12th in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

“I plan to do research in the area of fluids, with an emphasis on renewable energy or energy harvesting,” said Kuhn. “God commands us to be good stewards with what He gives us, and I want to help create products that promote sustainability.”

Not only will Kuhn benefit from the prestige attached to Cornell’s engineering program, but also from its unique program design. Kuhn will spend the first 10 weeks of his studies working with different professors and research groups to find the best adviser for his five-year program.

“Cornell’s program gives me a unique opportunity to find the perfect adviser and research group during my time there,” said Kuhn. “Being able to explore different options will give me the chance to find the right fit, which will only benefit me long term.”

Kuhn has worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base with UES, Inc., a technology company that provides world-class, on-site scientific, technical and research support to government agencies and industry partners.

“I’ve been well prepared for the challenges ahead through both my practical experience and my classroom instruction at Cedarville,” said Kuhn. “I have had a well-rounded education, great mentors and been able to make great connections through Cedarville.”

Kuhn was one of 12 graduates to earn a Faculty Scholarship Award at this year’s commencement ceremony. The award is given to students who maintain a 4.0 grade-point average throughout their studies.
Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,711 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.