

Dear Structural Engineers Association of Arizona

My name is Alexander Owen, and I am honored to have been selected for the Structural Engineers Association of Arizona Scholarship. I am grateful for the time and consideration you put into your decision, and I am looking forward to continuing my pursuit of a Civil Engineering degree, and ultimately a Masters in Structural Engineering.

I wanted to begin by first thanking you for selecting me and contributing to my education. My initial decision to attend Arizona State stemmed from my love of the state and the people within it. I was born and raised in Phoenix (Glendale), and I am the oldest of three siblings. I grew up an ASU sports fan, and I developed a strong desire to pursue my education at the university. Being a first-generation college student, choosing engineering was not an easy decision, and it resulted from my love for math, history, and creative problem solving.

Throughout my time at ASU, I have learned a great deal not only about civil engineering, but about what it takes to be a full-time student. Balancing homework, classes, extracurriculars, friends, and finances was something that took me a while to grasp. My first 1.5 years of school consisted of me taking out considerable loans, leading to my pursuit of TA and RA positions to lighten the financial burden of school. This scholarship will help me stay in Barrett, The Honors College, and will allow me to focus my future income on paying off previous loans, not taking out new ones.

Thank you again for your consideration, I appreciate the time you invested in me. I am working at Kiewit as a structural engineering intern, and upon completing my masters, I hope to become a bridge engineer. Feel free to find me via email or phone!

Best,

Alexander Owen

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**Meet Alexander Owen**

**Why did you choose to attend ASU?**

Being an Arizona native, I spent most of my childhood cheering on ASU sports teams both from at home, and at the games. As I grew older, I began to admire the campus, and it felt like the place I belonged. I love the state of Arizona, and with the opportunities present at ASU, I couldn't picture myself at another school.

**What is the best advice you've received?**

Choosing one piece of advice is difficult, advice is usually situational. However, one piece of advice I've found that is universal is as simple as, "Treat others the way you want to be treated." You'll never know what someone is thinking, but you can never truly hurt someone by showing them kindness.

**Why did you choose engineering?**

I grew up with a father that loved history, and as a consequence, I would wake up early on most days to watch history documentaries before school, or I would find myself reading into the early morning on weekends. My love for history led me to develop an interest in how ancient civilizations utilized their land and resources to their advantage, ultimately improving their life quality. I soon began to realize this was engineering, and when I learned how remarkable engineering truly was, I knew I was going to be a civil engineer. *"Scientists study the world as it is; engineers create the world that has never been."* -Theodore von Karman, Hungarian-American Mathematician