

## Geo-Institute Chapter, American Society of Civil Engineers St. Louis Section Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship

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Thank you for your interest in the Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship. The scholarship committee has prepared the following summary to provide you some background. Please review the entire application package. We look forward to receiving your application.

### INTENT

The Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship fund was established in early 2021 with a donation by the Prakash Family to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) St. Louis Section. The scholarship is currently administered by a subcommittee within the ASCE St. Louis Geo-Institute Chapter. The 2025 scholarship fund will provide an award total of \$1,500. The scholarship committee will award the full amount to a single applicant in 2025.

It is the intent of the scholarship committee to award the scholarship to an undergraduate student who is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Geological Engineering with a geotechnical emphasis and is enrolled at one of the universities within the ASCE St. Louis Section area during the Fall 2025 term. Added recognition will be noted for applicants who are ASCE Student Members.

Dr. Prakash is a nationally and internationally recognized geotechnical engineer with an outstanding record of teaching, research and professional service. His professional career started at Roorkee in India and continued to grow in the United States when he came here in 1978. Dr. Prakash spent much of his career as a Professor of Civil Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He has chaired five international conferences in geotechnical earthquake engineering and soil dynamics and another six on case histories in geotechnical engineering.

Dr. Prakash has co-authored four books: "Soil Dynamics", "Machine Foundation", "Pile Foundations" and "Fundamentals of Soil Mechanics" as well as approximately 300 papers printed in various professional journals and presented at conferences. He is the President of the Shamsher Prakash Foundation which has two annual "Shamsher Prakash Awards", one for Excellence in Research and the other for Practice of Geotechnical Engineering.

In recognition of his academic and professional achievements, Dr. Prakash was named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 2011 – this is the Society's highest accolade. In addition, the Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest Romania, conferred the degree of Doctor, Honoris Causa to Dr. Prakash in 2003, and the University of Illinois (UIUC), has recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus of

Civil Engineering in 2004. The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2008.

The Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship will be awarded in 2025 for the fall session. Procedures for 2025 and subsequent years may be revised from those contained herein.

## SCHEDULE

The proposed schedule for application and award of the 2025 Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship is as follows:

June 30, 2025 - Deadline for RECEIPT of applications (not postmarking/shipping).

September/October 2025 - Award scholarship at 2025 Annual Award Banquet  
(Attendance preferred but not required)

## SCHOLARSHIP STRUCTURE

Criteria: The Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship is open to all undergraduate students that are pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering or Geological engineering with an emphasis in geotechnical engineering and is enrolled at one of the universities within the ASCE St. Louis Section. The intent of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance for geotechnical studies towards a bachelor's degree. The scholarship awardee would be selected annually based on their enthusiasm for geotechnical engineering studies, their appreciation of the importance that field experience plays in the professional growth of an engineer, and their academic record.

Award Value: The total scholarship fund will be valued at \$1,500 for 2025.

Award Notification: It is intended that the awardee(s) will be notified in writing by the chairman of the scholarship committee. The name and biographical details of the awardee will be submitted to the St. Louis Section Newsletter.

Scholarship Committee: The Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship is administered by a subcommittee within the ASCE St. Louis Geo-Institute Chapter. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to the final awardee decision and the number of scholarships awarded.

Geo-Institute Chapter, American Society of Civil Engineers St. Louis Section  
Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship  
2025 Application Form

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

An applicant must be currently enrolled for their Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Geological Engineering with a geotechnical emphasis. Students currently seeking a Master's or PHD are not eligible for this scholarship. Applicants are encouraged to be members of ASCE. Visit the ASCE St. Louis Section web site at <https://www.ascestl.org/qi> for ASCE membership applications.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

A complete scholarship application package must be received by the Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship Committee by the deadline indicated below. The package must include a complete scholarship application (signed) including an essay of not more than 500 words, and current unofficial transcript(s). Complete applications should be emailed to the Vice-Chair. If you decide to submit letters of recommendation, they may be emailed separately. Only complete applications will be considered.

Send all application materials to:                      Travis Kassebaum, Vice-Chair  
Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical  
Scholarship Committee  
Travis.Kassebaum@terracon.com

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT:    June 30, 2025

HELPFUL HINTS

- ◆ We suggest you type your application, although an application legibly printed in blue or black ink is acceptable. Neatness counts! No matter how good your credentials are, carelessly completed applications will be evaluated unfavorably.
- ◆ You may obtain letters of recommendation from people you know well who can provide details about your academic performance, goals, and work habits, but these are not required. Up to three recommendation letters are allowed. They may come from teachers, counselors, employers, and colleagues. Letters from friends or relatives will not be accepted. Letters of recommendation are not confidential. Please give your references ample time to write the letters and confirm that they will submit the letters before the deadline.
- ◆ Have someone proofread your application materials.

(Type or print neatly using blue or black ink. Illegible applications will be rejected.)

7. CLASS LEVEL AS OF FALL 2021

\_\_\_ Freshman

\_\_\_ Sophomore

\_\_\_ Junior

\_\_\_ Senior

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8. CURRENT ACADEMIC MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

7. COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED (List current school first)

Name	City, State	Dates Attended	Degree Received	GPA
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

8. UNIVERSITY AND EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Institution, Quarter/Semester and Year)

9. EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT (Include memberships, offices and activities from high school, college, community and volunteer organizations. Add an additional sheet if necessary.)

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. HONORS AND AWARDS (Include special awards, prizes, scholarships, and recognition. List the school or organization that granted the award. Add an additional sheet if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_

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12. PLEASE INCLUDE DISCUSSING YOUR INTEREST IN A CAREER IN  
GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (Essay should be not more than 500 words, it can be  
included on separate sheet)

13. NAME AND E-MAIL OF REFERENCES (Providing Letters of Recommendation are  
Optional. Up to three references can be provided. See Letter of Recommendation form at the end  
of this application.)

Name

E-mail Address

Reference 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 3: \_\_\_\_\_

14. TRANSCRIPTS ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ (Check Here)

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CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION RELEASE

I certify that all information I have provided on this application is true to the best of my  
knowledge.

I authorize the St. Louis Section, ASCE, to release letters of recommendation, applications  
and accompanying documents and to publicize my scholarship award if I am a recipient.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship**  
Letter of Recommendation (Page 1 of 2)

INSTRUCTIONS: Thank you for participating in the application process for the year 2025 Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship. So that we may fully consider the applicant's qualifications for the scholarship, please complete this form and email it to:  
Travis Kassebaum, Vice-Chair, Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship Committee  
Travis.Kassebaum@terracon.com

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be RECEIVED by June 30, 2025. This is not confidential, and the student may view the statement upon request.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONNAIRE

P = Poor F = Fair G = Good E = Excellent

1. How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How would you rate the applicant's motivation for learning? P F G E Unknown
3. How would you rate the applicant's prospects for a successful career in the geosciences? P F G E Unknown
4. How would you rate the applicant's enthusiasm for the geotechnical engineering profession? P F G E Unknown
5. How well does the applicant get along with others? P F G E Unknown
6. How would you rate the applicant's professional ability? P F G E Unknown
7. How well does the applicant follow through on commitments? P F G E Unknown
8. Additional Comments - See attached page

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Letter of Recommendation (Page 2 of 2)

COMMENTS

Please use this section, to provide additional information regarding why this applicant should be selected for the scholarship. It is suggested that your comments include the following: general and special abilities the applicant possesses, present and potential leadership qualities of the applicant, and the applicant's commitment to the geotechnical engineering profession.

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Signature

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Date