Chemical engineering major Rebecca Carlson vying for national Hertz Foundation Fellowship

Rebecca Carlson, an award-winning senior majoring in chemical engineering in the MSU College of Engineering and a member of the Honors College, has been named a finalist for the Hertz Foundation Fellowship.

The foundation received 721 applications from students planning to earn their doctorate in a STEM field and narrowed the group of finalists down to 40, including Carlson.

The fellowship is granted to PhD students nationwide and consists of up to five years of academic and research support, valued at $250,000. Twelve national winners will be announced in mid-March.

Carlson, a 2015 Goldwater Scholar, has participated in and led research both on and off MSU’s campus. Currently, she is a research assistant in S. Patrick Walton’s applied biomolecular engineering lab and also a student ambassador for the Undergraduate Research Office. Walton is an associate professor of chemical engineering and materials science, and the director of the CoRe Experience in the College of Engineering.

Among her other honors, Carlson was one of three women students from MSU Engineering honored at the 2016 AIChE Annual Student Conference in San Francisco, Nov. 11-14, 2016. She won a first prize, the William Cunningham Award – team category with Ariel Rose ('16), in the AIChE 2016 Student Design Competition. AIChE is the global organization for chemical engineers. MSU’s Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science has a long-standing tradition of placing students in the top ranks of the annual competition.

She is also the recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship and also an Evergrande Scholar, which earned her the opportunity to work at Harvard Medical School’s Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases.
Carlson is from Rockford, graduating as valedictorian of Rockford High School. Prior to that, she lived in Italy for 14 years.

Related Website: Hertz Fellowship finalists
Story courtesy of the MSU Honors College
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