



Maha Ahmad



Kylie Bedel



Aiden Drohr



Steven Merholz



Maddock Thomas

R&LHS announces 2024 scholarship awards

The Railway & Locomotive Historical Society has announced five 2024 recipients of scholarships. Each award is worth \$3,000. Scholarships are given in the names of those who endowed them: Edward Myers, Bruce Ward, and George Hilton. The students are:

Maha Ahmad

Maha Ahmad of Davis, Calif., is pursuing a PhD in transportation technology and policy at the University of California-Davis. She holds a B.S. in economics from the University of London International Program and an M.A., also in economics, from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

As her interest in public transportation has grown, she interned with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, where she worked on various projects, including transit signal priority to improve the speed of on-street light-rail operations. She seeks a career in the transit industry, focusing on research-to-practice.

Kylie Bedel

Kylie Bedel of Evansville, Ind., is pursuing a B.S. with a double major in agribusiness management and animal science at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. She is specifically

interested in the symbiotic relationship between railroads and the producers of agricultural commodities.

She has obtained a sales and marketing internship with Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Neb., and aspires to earn a graduate degree focused on agricultural economics.

Aiden Drohr

Aiden Drohr of Wentzville, Mo., is a student at St. Charles Community College, transferring to Maryville University in St. Louis, where he will pursue a B.A. in history. His life-long fascination with railroads led him to his current job as a staff tour guide at the National Museum of Transportation in St. Louis.

In the summer of 2023, he gave a presentation at the museum about the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad 4-4-0 camelback steam locomotive No. 952, outlining the engine's use on the railroad, donation to the R&LHS and eventual loan to the museum in St. Louis. His goals include pursuing an M.S. in museum studies and a career in railway preservation.

Steven Merholz

Steven Merholz of Cincinnati is pursuing a B.S. in chemical engi-

neering at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich.

He has volunteered at the Railway Museum of Greater Cincinnati and served as a process engineering co-op student at a large milling facility where he tracked the filling of railroad tank cars.

He is currently president of the university's Railroad Engineering and Activities Club, and also a student member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association. He aspires to an engineering career in the food, chemical, or oil and gas industries and advocating for increased use of railroad transportation.

Maddock Thomas

Maddock Thomas of Decatur, Ga., is pursuing a B.A. in urban studies at Brown University, Providence, R.I. He has written multiple publications and made several presentations on transit, railroad, and labor topics.

The recipient of grants and fellowships, he worked as a visiting researcher at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. He aspires to earn a Ph.D. in a transportation-related field or to work for Amtrak or a commuter railroad.