



20 Years of Supporting Women in Engineering

Meet the Winner of CEMF's 20th Anniversary National Scholarship for Women in Engineering

For immediate release

(Renfrew, Ontario): As we mark our 20th Anniversary, the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation is especially thrilled and proud to announce the winner of a one-time scholarship created specifically for this anniversary year.

Silvia Graciela Fernandez Avila, of Airdrie, Alberta has been named the winner of the **CEMF 20th Anniversary National Scholarship for Women in Engineering**. This special \$10,000 scholarship was created to celebrate 20 years of CEMF providing engineering scholarships to Canadian women.

The Foundation provides scholarships to women who are role models and ambassadors for their profession. A unique criteria for this scholarship included applicants writing about three former scholarship winners and tracking their success since receiving their Foundation scholarship. Not surprisingly, all applicants' research showed our former scholarship recipients to be highly successful, well rounded and strong community leaders.

Ms. Fernandez Avila is a second-year civil engineering student at the Schulich School of Engineering of the **University of Calgary**. As a mentor for the engineering profession she wants to "teach young ladies about this profession, motivate them to pursue this career and let them know that they can be leaders in this field." Ms. Fernandez Avila is very involved in the Women's Resource Centre of the University of Calgary as a "diversity" volunteer where she assists staff in developing, promoting and evaluating programming initiatives and events. Silvia is also a member and VP External of the Civil Engineering Undergraduate Society. In her community of Airdrie, Silvia is a recreational volunteer at a supportive living facility. During her free time, Silvia enjoys playing the piano and taking zumba dance classes.

Along with the scholarship, Ms. Fernandez Avila will be a guest at the CEMF Annual Awards Luncheon in Vancouver during the Annual General Meeting of Engineers Canada being held on May 28, 2010.

"We are excited and proud to be marking our 20th Anniversary this year, and celebrating the over 100 Canadian women who have been awarded undergraduate, master's and PhD scholarships along with the over 600 applicants who have strived to win one of our scholarships since 1990," says president Suzelle Barrington. "Our 2010 winners join an elite group of women who are role

models and ambassadors for the profession. To Silvia, on behalf of the Board of Directors and our judges, congratulations! We look forward to celebrating your achievement in Vancouver in May.”

Since 1990, the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation has been promoting engineering as a career choice for young Canadian women through its extensive scholarship program, a website that attracts hundreds of new visitors a month, social media programming, and national public relations and marketing campaigns and scholarship winner presentations to high school students.

The Foundation provides a total of 13 scholarships every year at all the university degree levels.

-30-

Backgrounder attached.

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