



Tau Beta Pi
The Engineering Honor Society

Tau Beta Pi Announces 2020 Laureates

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named two Laureates to recognize *gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors*.

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's mission to recognize academic and professional excellence rooted in personal integrity. The Society also promotes a well-rounded education essential for success. This prestigious award is accompanied by a \$2,500 cash award and commemorative plaque.

The 2020 TBP Laureates are **Kevin Ptak**, of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, cited for achievements in athletics; and **Natalie J. Turco**, of Alfred University, cited for diverse achievements. A total of 113 remarkable Tau Bates have been named Laureates since 1982.



Ptak

Kevin Ptak, *South Dakota Alpha '19*, has been named a 2020 TBP Laureate for his athletic achievements. He recently graduated with a master's degree in electrical engineering, having already earned his bachelor's degree in the same field from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T).

At SDSM&T, Ptak was a dual-sport standout for all four years of his undergraduate education—as a wide receiver for the SD Mines football team and competing in relays and the 400m for the track & field team.

Ptak is four-time RMAC Summit Award winner, which is given to the athlete with the highest cumulative GPA—he's maintained a perfect 4.0, competing at the RMAC conference championship meet. He was a member of three relay teams that currently hold school records and has been named RMAC Football Academic Honor Roll three times.

He joined the SD Alpha Chapter in 2018 and actively participates in events, socials, and volunteer projects. Highlights include elementary school volunteering for two years and the M-Hill Hike to raise money for a cure for Parkinson's Disease.



Turco

Natalie J. Turco, *New York Sigma '20*, has been named a 2020 TBP Laureate for her diverse achievements. She is a recent graduate with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and B.A. in chemistry from Alfred University (AU).

Throughout her time as an engineering student, Natalie has dedicated every spare moment to becoming involved and fostering a sense of liberal culture at AU. She has served on AU's Peer Review and University Conduct Boards since 2016, eventually leading to being selected as the undergraduate program reviewer of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education Student Conduct Review Committee.

Natalie also has a love for the arts. She will finish the final setup of her studio and launch a small business, making and selling pottery. This summer, she began working at GD - Electric Boat as a structural engineer. As a dedicated student, she has strived for high academic goals but has found her extracurricular involvement to be the most rewarding part of her education.

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters in 250 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 46 cities. It has initiated more than 609,000 members in its 135-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. See <https://www.tbp.org/> or contact (tbp.media@tbp.org) for more details.