

Tau Beta Pi Announces 2025 Laureates

Five Laureates have been selected to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors. Award categories include arts, athletics, diverse achievements, and service. Laureates will receive a \$2,500 cash award, commemorative plaque, and join other outstanding Tau Bates cited since the program began in 1982, bringing the total to 131. The 2025 Laureates are **Annaliese M. Braucht**, *SD A '25*, **Marjorie J. Cenese**, *VA G '25*, **Nicholas R. Divilbiss**, *KS G '25*, **Hunter A. Elwell**, *OR A '25*, and **Matteo P. Sollecito**, *IN A '25*.



Annaliese M. Braucht has been selected as a **2025 TBP Laureate** for achievements in the arts. She's pursuing a double major in bio-medical engineering and biology (pre-med) at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Throughout her youth, Annaliese expressed her love of music through dancing, playing musical instruments, and singing in choirs. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering creativity and artistic expression in her academic journey. Annaliese is a piano teacher and dance instructor, using her expertise to inspire and advance STEAM education. After joining the SD Alpha Chapter, she was elected vice president and has served two consecutive terms. Most notably her tenure included the planning and execution of the 2024 TBP Convention in which Annaliese was involved in logistics, alumni outreach, event coordination, and hosted one of the evening banquets with 400+ guests. Annaliese has maintained a 4.0 GPA at SD Mines and is involved in research that led to being published in *ACS NANO* (2024). Her academic advisor and research mentor described her as "an exceptional student and researcher who embodies the highest standards of academic excellence, leadership, and scientific curiosity." Her dedication to the local community and interest in the medical field is evidenced by her completion of the CNA Program and subsequently working nearly two years as a certified nurse in the Pediatrics Unit at Rapid City Hospital. Annaliese's nomination recognized her for bridging the gap between technical innovation and creative expression through leadership roles and a passion for the arts.



Marjorie J. Cenese's diverse achievements have led to her being named a **2025 TBP Laureate**. She recently graduated from Old Dominion University (ODU) in electrical engineering as part of a B.S./M.S. linked program

and now works as a process engineer at Micron Technology. In high school, she served as president of Granby Go Green with a desire to promote sustainability in her school community. Marjorie initiated a plastic bag recycling program and worked with local environmental leaders to organize cleanups, create presentations, and secure funding. Marjorie is a proven leader and revitalized the ODU IEEE student chapter, leading the NASA RFID patent project and winning an IEEE Region 3 Exemplary Student Branch Award for contributions to the electrotechnology community. Upon joining the VA Gamma Chapter she noticed a lack of activity and was motivated to engage members and enhance the campus presence. As VA Gamma president, Marjorie successfully organized and hosted the chapter's first fall initiation since 2021, created guides to streamline the initiation process, and recruited a new Chief Advisor. A letter in support of her nomination cited Marjorie as having a lasting impact at ODU while "embodying integrity, empathy and resilience, and doing it all with an incredible smile on her face." Her exceptional contributions range from being a published poet to supporting the broader engineering community. Marjorie's efforts demonstrate a commitment to fostering liberal culture through creative endeavors and advocating for civic responsibility.



In recognition of his service achievements, **Nicholas R. Divilbiss** has been named a **2025 TBP Laureate**. He completed his B.S. in architectural engineering at Kansas State University (KSU), where he's continuing on in pursuit of a graduate degree and currently employed as a civil engineering intern with the City of Manhattan (KS). Before college, Nick escaped an abusive home and entered foster care in 2010, moving 15 times before aging out. In the small town of Parker, KS, he graduated high school and quickly became an active member of the community. There, he was known for independently performing helpful deeds such as assisting with citywide cleanups. He also served as a 911 Dispatcher for the Linn County Sheriff's Office, working to improve processes and increase the

department's effectiveness in handling calls. He is a founding member of Fostering Success, an organization supporting students with foster care backgrounds. He has also participated in humanitarian work trips, applying his construction skills to disaster recovery and housing reconstruction efforts. Nick currently serves as a TBP District 9 Director and Advisor for the KS Gamma Chapter, where he formerly served as president. His inspirational and popular three-part *Bentspedition* series in *The Bent* highlighted his personal project to visit every TBP chapter's campus, document their Bent monuments, and increase social media awareness of the Association's vast reach. KSU's College of Engineering Dean detailed Nick's strengths as a leader and exceptional thinker, "a mindset which enables him to approach engineering challenges with a holistic perspective, considering not only technical feasibility but also ethical and societal implications."



For his achievements in service, **Hunter A. Elwell** has been selected a **2025 TBP Laureate**. After completion of his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Oregon State University (OSU), he plans to pursue graduate studies in materials science. From a young

age, Hunter and his twin brother took on the role of caregiver for their disabled mother. He found a sense of belonging in a local youth group and through mentorship and civic engagement, Hunter found a purpose: to become an engineer and give back in recognition of the support he received during the difficult times of his life. In his newfound spirit of service, he discovered a passion for nature and volunteered at a wildlife refuge. Hunter graduated high school through a dual-credit program at Portland Community College, where he earned an associate's degree, and then transferred to OSU. First serving as Oregon Alpha secretary and now president, he attended the 2024 TBP Convention and brought back strategies to increase member engagement, retention, and new project ideas. Hunter is described as "a well-rounded and compassionate engineer whose efforts have already improved outcomes for many" and has shown to be a leader who strives to act in service of others.



Matteo P. Sollecito has been named a **2025 TBP Laureate** for athletics. He earned a M.S. in chemical engineering from Purdue University and a B.A. in chemistry from Swarthmore College. By the age of 15, he'd won three national club league

titles, competed in the Little League World Series, and represented Great Britain's national all-star team in international tournaments. After coming to the U.S., he was recognized as a top 100 underclassmen baseball player in New Jersey. This led to realizing his dream of playing college baseball at Swarthmore, where he succeeded in balancing his academic and athletic pursuits. He was selected for Great Britain's senior national team, competed in the 2023 World Baseball Classic (WBC) qualifier, and again later in the globally-televised WBC event in Arizona. During his undergraduate years, Matteo discovered a passion for chemical engineering, which led him to Purdue University's prestigious Professional Master's Program, where he has played for both the Division 1 NCAA and club baseball teams. Matteo was described by a former manager (current New York Yankees complex coordinator), as a "cornerstone of the U.K. program, leader, mentor, and a genuinely good human being."