



2026 Awards Luncheon

Arlington, VA



Environmental Excellence Award

Emerging Environmental Leaders Chair Christopher Tracy



EEA Program 2026

The Spill Control Association of America (SCAA) Environmental Excellence Award is awarded annually to three (3) students conducting studies in the areas of Oil Spill Response, Disaster Response & Recovery, and Emerging Contaminants. Three (3) \$1,000.00 scholarships are awarded.

- Established in 2025, this year we had 9 students apply from 4 schools (2025 - 7 students apply from 4 schools)
- Goal continues to be increasing visibility of the EEA Scholarship Program



SCAA

SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE VOICE OF SPILL RESPONSE PROFESSIONALS

2026 EEA Scholarship Winners



Environmental Excellence Award Winner

Hailey Benfield
Purdue University



"I would like to formally thank the SCAA's Emerging Environmental Leaders program for selecting me as a recipient of the 2026 SCAA Environmental Excellence Award (EEA) Scholarship. This scholarship will help me as I transition from a full-time student into the workforce this spring. As a graduating senior in Environmental and Ecological Engineering, I have worked hard these past four years to learn and apply my knowledge towards lessening the burden we as humans have on the environment around us. After graduation, I will be moving to the Houston area to work as an environmental engineer in the chemical industry. I will be focusing on how we can maintain proper environmental standards in the presence of spills, natural hazards, and other emerging environmental concerns."



Environmental Excellence Award Winner

Hannah Burton
Massachusetts Maritime
Academy



"I am truly honored and grateful to be selected as a recipient of the 2026 SCAA Environmental Excellence Award. As a senior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy studying Emergency Management with a minor in Homeland Security, this recognition means so much to me. Support like this makes a real difference in helping me continue my education and pursue a career focused on protecting both people and the environment. Through my experience as a firefighter with the Onset Fire Department, I have seen how quickly an emergency can impact not only a community but also the land and water around it. Those moments have shaped my understanding of how important trained responders and strong coordination across agencies and organizations are when incidents occur. The work SCAA does to bring together professionals across the spill response community is incredibly inspiring to me. By connecting responders, industry leaders, government agencies, and educators, SCAA helps strengthen preparedness and response efforts across the country. The organization's focus on sharing best practices, supporting workforce development, and promoting strong safety standards plays an important role in protecting both communities and the environment. This scholarship not only supports me financially as I continue my studies, but it also motivates me to keep learning and growing in this field. I am deeply grateful to SCAA for investing in students who are committed to environmental protection and emergency response. Thank you again for this incredible honor and for supporting the next generation of responders."



Environmental Excellence Award Winner

Logan Smith

Massachusetts Maritime
Academy



"I am honored to accept the 2026 SCAA Environmental Excellence Award Scholarship. This recognition means a great deal to me as I continue pursuing a career dedicated to protecting communities, infrastructure, and the natural environment. As a senior Emergency Management student at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, I have seen how environmental stewardship and hazard mitigation are closely connected, particularly in coastal regions where environmental protection and public safety go hand in hand.

I am also currently applying for a commission in the United States Coast Guard, where I hope to serve while contributing to environmental protection, maritime safety, and disaster response. I am grateful to SCAA and the Emerging Environmental Leaders program for investing in students who are passionate about making a difference in this field. This award motivates me to continue learning, growing, and working toward solutions that strengthen environmental resilience and protect our communities."



THE VOICE OF SPILL RESPONSE PROFESSIONALS

SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award

Angie Martin, SCAA Past Presidents/Nominations Committee Chair

Stephen Pelna, SCAA President 2025-2027



SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award

Established in 2025 this presentation marks the inaugural year of the SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award and the recognition of its first recipients.

Named in honor of founder and Past President David Usher (Marine Pollution Control Corp.) This award recognizes long-time industry and government partners who have demonstrated exceptional commitment, leadership, and service in support of the SCAA mission and community. This merit-based honor is awarded to individuals whose sustained contributions have had a meaningful and lasting impact on the Association and the broader professional community.



SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award

In honor of a career dedicated to advancing the values of the spill response community.

It my privilege to present the
2025 SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award to



SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award

Scott Lundgren

Former Director, NOAA Office of Response & Restoration (OR&R)

Rick Raksnis

Former Supervisor, Oil Spill Response Plans & Emergency Support
Office of Field Services Support (PHH 40) Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation

Captain Trey Wirth (Ret.)

Chief, Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG MER)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters



SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award



Scott Lundgren

Former Director, NOAA

Office of Response & Restoration (OR&R)



SCAA David Usher Distinguished Service Award



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Congratulations



Annual Meeting Program

**SCAN
TO VIEW**

