The first ASSE Member-Get-A-Member Scholarship was awarded to Kristin Porubsky, a recent graduate of Oakland University, Rochester, MI. Throughout 2013, ASSE contributed $1 to the scholarship fund for each new member referred by a current member. By year’s end, $2,800 was raised. “This scholarship helped me immensely for my last semester as an OSH student,” says Kristin. “I am eager to enter the safety field now that I have seen what amazing people there are to mentor me. I hope to one day return the favor to a student like myself.”

ASSE’s Member-Get-A-Member campaign is continuing the scholarship piece of the program for 2014. Learn more at www.asse.org/MGAM.

PS: Why did you choose a degree in safety?
Kristin: To be honest, I had never heard of this field until an acquaintance told me about it. She had gone through the same program at Oakland University and had a job with the Hartford in Texas and loved it. What made me decide to earn a degree in safety is that I would still get to do what I have always wanted to do, which is to help others, but would be able to do so in a business setting.

PS: How did you find out about ASSE?
Kristin: Another member told me that it was an organization I had to join if I wanted to go into the safety field. Also, my professors were always encouraging students to join. They all reinforced the benefits of joining and it has been one of the smartest decisions I have ever made.

PS: How has being an ASSE member helped you?
Kristin: Being a member has helped me get in touch with others in the safety field as well as classmates and professors. It has been a great experience to be able to talk regularly with my peers on safety issues. Also, during our student section meetings I met and learned from many different individuals.

PS: What is your ideal job after graduation?
Kristin: I would like to obtain a job at General Motors (GM), where I interned. I have tried to gain as much experience in various fields and would love to work for a major corporation such as GM. [Update: Kristin reports that she is working with GM in Milford, MI.]

PS: How will the scholarship help you?
Kristin: This scholarship helped me pay for the 14 credits I took this past summer. Being able to reduce the amount of loans to pay for school was a weight off my shoulders and I appreciate that ASSE was able to give me this scholarship.

PS: What advice do you have for students who are considering a career in safety?
Kristin: My advice to students who are considering a career in safety is to join ASSE! Even if you are still unsure about a career in safety, this organization has so many helpful resources. From Professional Safety magazine to webinars and conferences, as well as being in contact with other members, it has it all.

Kristin Porubsky is the first recipient of ASSE’s Member-Get-A-Member Scholarship. Kristin holds a B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health from Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

ASSE Foundation

The ASSE Foundation, established by and in partnership with ASSE, generates funding and provides resources for research opportunities, educational advancement and leadership development to advance the SH&E profession. The Foundation exists to provide programs that advance the safety profession. It exists because safety matters—for workers, for families and for the future of our world. The ASSE Foundation has awarded hundreds of scholarships and grants to students and professionals, contributing to its vision of a well-credentialed and highly educated workforce of professionals.

The ASSE Foundation receives contributions from corporations, individual members, family of ASSE members, and ASSE chapters and regions interested in supporting the SH&E profession. The Foundation is exempt from taxation under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Generally, contributions to the Foundation are considered charitable contributions under IRC Section 170 and are tax deductible as provided by law.

Learn more at www.asse.org/foundation.