FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2022

New York Water Environment Association Awards $4,000 Student Chapter Scholarship to SUNY-ESF student Jane E. Clark of Syracuse, NY

Syracuse, NY – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), a statewide nonprofit organization of water quality management professionals, is proud to announce that it has awarded a $4,000 Student Chapter Scholarship to Jane E. Clark of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

Clark, 27, is a senior at SUNY-ESF, pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resources Engineering. She has had a variety of experience in the water sector during her college career. Clark began an internship with Camden Group, Inc last year on wastewater operations in Central New York, working on a range of water resource recovery facilities, including traditional activated sludge wastewater treatment plants, a landfill leachate treatment facility, and a constructed wetland for combined sewer overflow treatment. She is currently interning with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Planning Management Team of the Buffalo District, working on a variety of projects across the Great Lakes watershed.

Last year, Clark served as Treasurer and Young Professionals Liaison for the SUNY-ESF NYWEA Student Chapter and helped organize the chapter’s annual Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Panel as a virtual event with several wastewater operators and engineers as featured speakers. Clark will serve as Vice President in the coming school year. She also received a NYWEA Student Chapter Service Award. She is also a member of the Alpha Xi Sigma (AXΣ) Honor Society and the ESF Honor Society involving volunteer work throughout the school year. Clark is the Student Representative for the Central New York Chapter Board of the Air & Waste Management Association and a member of the Environmental Resources Engineering Club. She has displayed exemplary academic performance, making the ESF President’s List every semester at ESF.

Clark previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Environmental Studies and East Asian Studies from Oberlin College in 2016. She received the Gorn Memorial Prize in
Environmental Studies from the Oberlin College Department of Environmental Studies and the Bridging Scholarship from the US-Japan Bridging Foundation. She is now pursuing her second undergraduate degree at SUNY-ESF and working towards an environmental engineering career. Clark enjoys the variety of the work, which requires such a diverse set of knowledge and tools including – biology, chemistry, physics, and more.

“Last year, I worked as a field technician for the Camden Group at the Harbor Brook CSO Constructed Wetlands project,” said Clark. “After a few months, I began to work as a wastewater operator at four facilities they manage between Syracuse and Oswego. Before I knew it, I had fallen in love with wastewater. It is difficult to describe – but there's just something about the bubbling of aeration tanks and the hum of pumps! In some ways, I feel even closer to nature in a wastewater plant than I do walking in the park. I can feel the water rush through the pipes when I rest my hand on them, and I can watch bacteria squirm under the microscope. It is easy to see how deeply connected human beings are with the environment when you look out over Lake Ontario from a primary clarifier. I look forward to applying my operations experience to my career in engineering design.”

Since the inception of NYWEA’s Scholarship Program in 1998, the Association has awarded over $702,750 in scholarship funding to 240 students - including $52,000 in scholarships awarded to 10 students this year. Details on the Student Chapter Scholarship and other NYWEA scholarships can be found at: www.nywea.org/SitePages/Scholarships.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, administers wastewater operator certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 15 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, visit www.nywea.org.