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 Child of Member Scholarship to Eric N. Martin to attend Clarkson University.

Martin, 18, son of Christopher Martin and Mary Martin of Clarence, NY, is beginning his freshman year at Clarkson University, pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He recently graduated from Clarence High School Class with a Regents Diploma with advanced designation and honors for Science Mastery. He received recognition with the Academic Excellence Distinction and he received the CHS Technology Award. He was very involved in extracurricular activities in high school, including participation in the Engineering Club and serving as Co-captain of the VEX Robotics Team. He has also been active in his church, participating in the Our Lady of Peace Youth Ministry, where he helped institute live streams for the church when the COVID-19 pandemic began and in person gatherings were not possible.

Martin’s interest in the environment began with one of his hobbies, fishkeeping, through which he learned how fragile ecosystems can be. Martin learned about how runoff can carry pollutants through the water environment and saw how the environmental conditions could affect the fish he cared for as a microcosm of the broader ecosystems of New York State. He became concerned about the effects of climate change, pollution, and other environmental damages and their impact on the water environment.

Martin has also been informed on environmental issues by his father's work as a consulting engineer. He accompanied his father to community events, including the Onondaga County Save the Rain Clean Water Fair. Martin was interested in this event as it helped the community
understand measures they can take to protect water quality. He hopes to improve environmental conditions related to infrastructure development in his future career as an engineer.

"As a civil engineer, one of my most important goals will be to promote solutions that reduce or eliminate the environmental impact of the built world," said Martin. "I will work diligently to learn from the past, so I can positively impact not only the environment, but the greater community."

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 Child of Member 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.

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