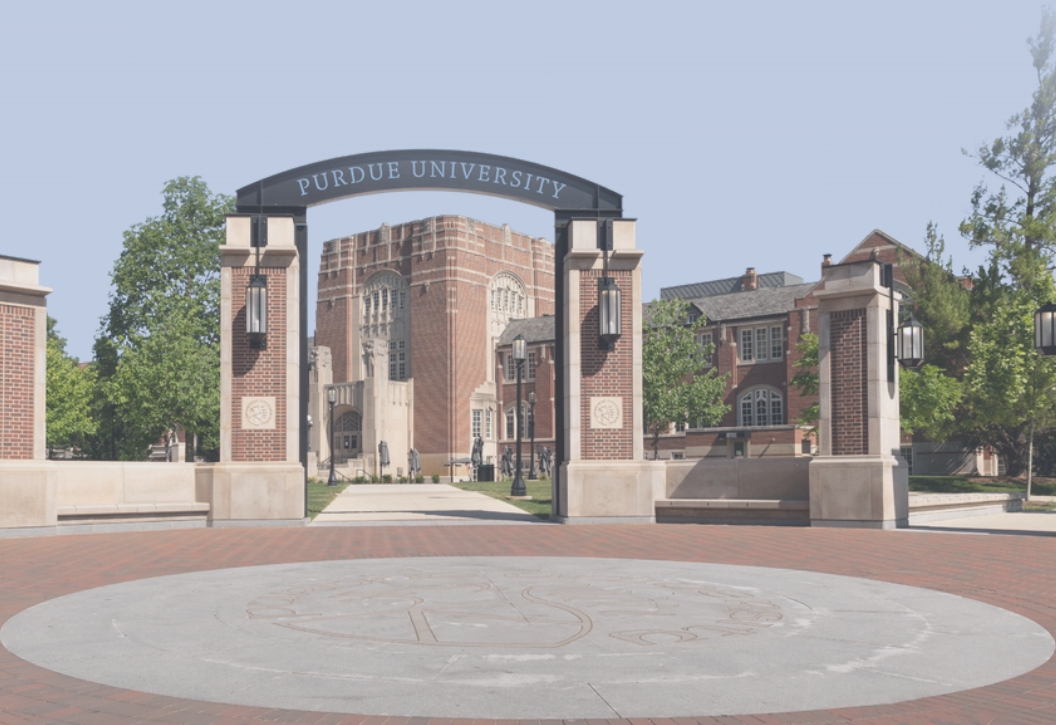
ARCS ADVANCING SCIENCE IN AMERICA®

NATIONAL SCHOLAR AWARD

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026





"It is a pleasure to launch a new national partnership with Purdue University today and to celebrate the inaugural class of ARCS Purdue Scholars.

This first ARCS National Academic Partnership marks an important expansion of ARCS Foundation's reach into regions not yet served by ARCS chapters, building on nearly seven decades of impact while helping address the growing need for private support of scientific research in emerging technologies."

Jill Bray
National President
ARCS Foundation, Inc.

"This relationship reflects a shared belief between Purdue and ARCS that investing in doctoral talent is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen the nation's innovation ecosystem.

Sustained graduate funding enables top scholars to focus on high-impact discovery, strengthening the talent pipeline that powers Indiana's Hard Tech Corridor and the industries shaping our future."



Haley Oliver-Jischke
Senior Vice Provost for Academic & Student Success
Purdue University

ARCS NATIONAL SCHOLAR AWARD CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Jill Bray, National President,
ARCS Foundation, Inc.

Recognition of Special Guests

Remarks
Haley Oliver-Jischke, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Success, Purdue University

Introduction of the 2026-27 ARCS Purdue Scholars and Medallion Ceremony

Keynote Address
STEM Talent: The Foundation of Innovation
John L. Anderson, President Emeritus,
National Academy of Engineering

Audience Questions with Dr. Anderson

Closing Remarks

Reception & Refreshments

JOHN L. ANDERSON
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



John L. Anderson was president of the National Academy of Engineering from 2019 to 2025. His academic career spanned 48 years, including president of Illinois Institute of Technology, provost and senior vice president of Case Western Reserve University, and dean of engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

He has mentored the research of 26 PhD students. His professional recognition includes the Professional Progress Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California, Honorary Academician of Academia Sinica (Taiwan), fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and five honorary doctorates. Anderson received a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a PhD degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both in chemical engineering. He and his wife Pat have two children and five grandchildren.

"Through our ongoing collaboration with ARCS, we have seen firsthand the exceptional caliber of these emerging scientists and the promise they hold for the future. Investing in this new partnership not only celebrates these scholars but also strengthens Indiana's life sciences ecosystem."

Adria Harris
Head of People & Culture
Roche Diagnostics North America

ARCS FOUNDATION
A LEGACY OF IMPACT

Since its founding in 1958, ARCS has awarded more than $148 million to over 12,000 Scholars at leading US research institutions.

Each year, nearly 700 Scholars receive ARCS funding through 15 regional chapters across 13 states. ARCS Foundation chapters support nearly 700 programs and departments at 52 leading research universities across the United States.

In March 2026, ARCS Foundation announced the launch of its National Scholar Award Program, a new initiative designed to expand support for exceptional US STEM Scholars at universities in regions not currently served by ARCS chapters, while investing in high-impact scientific fields critical to US competitiveness.

Scan the QR code for more information about ARCS Foundation and the National Scholar Award Program.

THE ARCS FOUNDATION MISSION

ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding students who are US citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering, math, technology, and medical research.

ARCS NATIONAL SCHOLARS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

2026-27



MEERA DORAN

Roche ARCS National Scholar Award

Biomedical Engineering PhD

Research: *Identifying the earliest signs of cardiovascular disease using cutting-edge imaging technology for predictive diagnostics*

Technologies Involved: *Artificial Intelligence*



MAXWELL KAWADA

ARCS National Scholar Award

Biomedical Engineering PhD

Research: *Investigating the cognitive response to using AI and autonomy in surgical robots in high-stakes environments*

Technologies Involved: *Advanced Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Systems, Biotechnology*

"I am pleased to help launch ARCS at Purdue because this program recognizes what Purdue does so well: develop exceptional scientists and engineers prepared to meet the needs of the future. These scholars represent the promise of research that benefits Indiana, the nation, and the world."

Bill Bindley
Chairman of Guardian Pharmacy Services
Purdue University, BS Industrial Economics '62; Doctor of Management '97



SHAIV MEHRA

Bindley ARCS National Scholar Award

Biomedical Engineering PhD

Research: *Automating and autonomizing assistive robotic manipulation and mobility to improve independence of individuals with disabilities*

Technologies Involved: *Autonomous Systems, Advanced Computing, and Biotechnology*



PETER MESHKOV

Burton ARCS National Scholar Award

Electrical & Computer Engineering PhD

Research: *Engineering a quantum spin liquid for advanced computing applications by mechanically straining candidate materials with nanoscale structures*

Technologies Involved: *Microelectronics, Nanotechnology, and Quantum*



CHRISTOPHER PETER

Burke ARCS National Scholar Award

Biomedical Engineering PhD

Research: *Identifying the neural mechanisms underlying multisensory integration during artificial stimulation to improve perceptual decision-making*

Technologies Involved: *Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology*

ARCS NATIONAL SCHOLAR AWARD PROGRAM

The ARCS National Scholar Award Program extends ARCS Foundation support to outstanding US doctoral students at top research universities not served by existing chapters. Through three-year, unrestricted awards, the program offers scholars flexible funding to advance research in **critical and emerging technologies.** University partners nominate exceptional students who meet rigorous criteria. The program strengthens the nation's scientific talent pipeline, accelerates innovation in fields vital to America's future, and expands ARCS Foundation's impact through a scalable national model that complements its longstanding chapter-based award programs.

APPROVED AREAS OF FUNDING

The following Purdue University doctoral programs have been approved for ARCS National Scholar Award funding. Scholars selected from these programs will be engaged in research that incorporates one or more high-priority critical and emerging technologies.

- **Biomedical Engineering PhD**
- **Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD**
- **Mechanical Engineering PhD**

"Over the years, ARCS has shown us firsthand what happens when exceptional student scientists have the freedom and resources needed to pursue their best ideas. The new National Scholar Award Initiative takes this proven model to regions and fields where it's needed most, at a moment when private investment in American science has never been more critical. We're honored to be part of it."

Christy Burton
Co-founder and Chair
The Burton Family Foundation

HIGH PRIORITY TECHNOLOGIES CRITICAL TO US INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS



"ARCS Foundation's expansion to Purdue strengthens the human capital essential to Indiana's global leadership while advancing priorities central to BioCrossroads' strategy: research, talent, and strong connections between academia and industry."

Vince Wong
President & CEO
BioCrossroads

We are pleased to recognize the following donors whose generous support helped launch the ARCS National Scholar Program. Your investment encourages outstanding doctoral researchers working in critical and emerging technologies and helps strengthen the scientific talent that will shape America's future.

PURDUE SCHOLAR AWARD SPONSORS

These donors sponsor an ARCS Purdue Scholar for a three-year National Scholar Award.

Bill Bindley, PU BS IE '62, DMgt '97
Sara Jean and Fred Burke, PU MS IA '72
The Burton Family Foundation
Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Anonymous Friends of ARCS

NATIONAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM DONORS

These donors provide general support for the ARCS National Scholar Award Program, including pooled funding for awards at Purdue.

$5,000+

Pat and John Anderson
Nancy Chambers

$1,000-4,999

Julie Hohl

$500-999

Sherry and John Lundeen
Sharon Feng

$100-499

Jill and David Bray

Judith Jorgensen

Deborah W. Linhart
in memory of Becki Linhart

Danielle Robinson, PU AAE '97 and Adrian Robinson, PU BS ECE '98

Beth Wainwright

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