

## 2017 Louise Garside \$5,000 Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient: EliseAnne Koskelo



*EliseAnne Koskelo (Louise Garside undergraduate scholarship recipient), 2017*

EliseAnne Koskelo knew what career she wished to pursue when she was eleven. “I nurtured a profound passion for architecture, sustainability, and the environment. Through my own initiative, I created over 20 custom building designs and attended a summer architecture intensive at the University of Pennsylvania to improve my design, drafting, and building skills. I also devised several engineering science fair projects including the creation of an earthquake resistant skyscraper inspired by the California redwood tree. I received a total of 36 awards for my earthquake engineering science fair project including the Grand Prize at the Los Alamos County Science Fair for two consecutive years.” And that is only the briefest list of her awards, accomplishments, inventions, education, and employment. For someone so young, she is a phenomenon.

An undergraduate in physics and math, with a minor in French or English, at Pomona College, Koskelo expects to receive her BA in 2020. Currently, she carries a perfect 4.0 GPA. Whether it’s her employment as a researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory or as the planetarium operator at The Fletcher Jones Digital Planetarium, or one of the multitude of awards and academic competitions she has won, Koskelo seeks to use her skills, talents, education, and experience to give make the world a better place, literally. “My goal is to become a thoughtful and effective leader/engineer capable of making a positive impact on society...Later on, I aspire to be a professor at a major research university, investigating the intersection of science, humans, and the environment. I would like to help impact both federal and international policy as a scientific advisor at the United Nations in regards to science/engineering as it relates to preserving the environment and promoting cross-cultural interactions.” Naturally, transportation plays a critical role in her overall dream. And if anyone can bring that dream to fruition, it’s Koskelo.

According to Eric B. Flynn, PhD, Koskelo’s employer/mentor at Los Alamos, “What sets EliseAnne apart from her peers with perfect grades and test scores, though, is her ability to maintain this level of academic excellence while balancing an astounding variety of nonacademic activities. EliseAnne was a high school varsity athlete, she runs her own company, and is fluent in French. Her interests are very diverse, including civil engineering, architecture, geology, and creative writing. EliseAnne has unlimited energy and an uncanny ability to balance and excel in various tasks simultaneously. The rigor she brings to all of her endeavors ensures a very bright future and I have no doubt that she will make us all very proud one day. Her brilliance, drive, innovation, and maturity are sure to make her a valued member and leader of her university community and beyond.” Louise Garside will be pleased to help EliseAnne Koskelo achieve her dreams.