

Codi Weisz: WTS-LA 2019 \$7,500 Ava Doner Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient



Codi Weisz (WTS-LA Ava Doner Memorial Scholarship recipient), 2019

“As a leader in the industry, I plan to work locally, and with international partners on civil engineering projects such as Long Beach’s Gerald Desmond Bridge and the upkeep and improvement of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach,” explains Codi Weisz, the 2019 \$7500 WTS-LA Ava Doner Memorial Scholarship winner. She continues, “Projects such as these are uniting countries through transportation and the exchange of products and goods from around the world.” Much like Ava Doner, Weisz is certainly ambitious. But she mirrors Ava Doner in other ways, particularly her commitment to helping people.

“I believe that to make the world a better place, people need to start with their own communities. As a student at Temple City High, I founded Helping Hands Organization, which generates funds and awareness for three local nonprofits—the Pregnancy Help Center, Humane Society, and WINGS, which is a shelter for abused women and children. Not only are they great causes, but they are very close to my heart since WINGS was the shelter that my mother, sister, and I were forced to live in for several months. With this experience, I have become a more independent woman and a better leader.”

A civil engineering Dean’s List undergraduate at USC, Weisz will graduate in May 2022. Though young, she’s garnered considerable work experience already, including serving as a researcher in a USC lab, a member of the ASCE Steel Bridge and Environmental Teams, a participant in the 2018 WTS-OC Transportation Academy, and a cadet airman in the El Monte Airport-based Civil Air Patrol. That’s in addition to the service club she led and founded. Needless to say, Weisz possesses limitless drive, along with an uncanny ability to get things done.

According to Temple City Mayor Pro Tem Tom Chavez, “I have known Codi and her family for over five years...I was able to get to know Codi a little better a couple of years ago, when she applied to our city’s foreign ambassador program with Hawkesbury, Australia...Codi was chosen as one of six ambassadors...Her humble, yet outgoing, personality impressed the committee and she quickly developed into a leader of the group...Over the years, [through Helping Hands] she has raised hundreds of dollars...This sense of service and true passion for the well-being of those less fortunate has made a tremendous impact on our community...I am very proud of Codi and have watched her grow from a young inquisitive girl to a confident, intelligent and exceptional young woman.”

Ava Doner would be proud, too.