

**CEE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE 17TH ANNUAL NCE SALUTE TO
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS:**

American Water Works Association (AWWA)



NJIT is the first university in the state to host a student chapter of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), which is now thriving on campus with more than 30 active members. In recognition of its substantial contributions to the professional development of its members and the needs of the NJIT community through its activities, as well as its success in advancing the goals of NCE, the NJIT Chapter has been named the 2015 NCE Outstanding Student Chapter.

The group seeks to encourage the university community to be more conscious of the environment, while informing its members about the field of water management, from water resource engineering to waste water management, and encouraging them to consider meaningful careers in these areas. To fulfill that mission, AWWA last December hosted guest speakers from industry such NJIT alumnus Paul Rodriguez '11, '12, an engineer-in-

training at Hatch Mott MacDonald, who presented one of his recently completed work projects. Mr. Rodriguez also helped the group to organize a competition for students to build a water bucket filter that met such design criteria as flow rate and turbidity removal among other project specifications, including cost, weight and sustainability. The event included a tour of the Middlesex Water Treatment Plant and a presentation on AWWA's Water for People non-profit organization.

AWWA has partnered with the NJIT administration to provide hydration stations across the NJIT campus where recyclable containers can be filled, helping to reduce the number of single-serve plastic bottles used and discarded on campus.

Two teams from NJIT recently participated in the first annual AWWA Water Filter Competition, where students from local universities competed to design and build the most effective simple water filters. A team of four led by AWWA Vice President Radhika Patel won first place. "Being a member of AWWA has allowed me to network with individuals working in the field of water as well as to meet potential employers," says Patel. "Networking with NJIT alumni and industry contacts has been instrumental in helping me choose my concentration in environmental engineering."

CEE students learn about water treatment in the classroom. To give its members a first-hand view of the process, AWWA organizes visits to water treatment plants in the region. Along with the Kappa Psi Kappa fraternity, AWWA members also journey off campus once a semester to volunteer their time with the Hackensack Riverkeeper Project, helping the environmental advocacy organization clean the river of debris.

Most recently, during National Engineers Week, February 22-28, 2015, AWWA gave a presentation at Liberty Science Center to highlight the contributions engineers make to sustain the environment. In late March, the group attended the AWWA conference in Atlantic City, N.J., at which Radhika won second place in the conference's undergraduate research poster competition with her poster about the Arborloo (Sanitation) Project. CEE graduate student Aliasghar Ghadimkhani won second place with a poster entitled "Ceramic Membranes Fouling Control by Air Nano Bubbles" and graduate student Ahmed Abdella won third place with his poster, "Simulation of Chlorine Decay in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" in the graduate research poster portion of the competition.