



HRSD NEWS RELEASE

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HRSD Environmental Scholarship Awarded to ODU Graduate Student ~ Scholarship Is One of Several Environmental Education and Outreach Projects Funded by Administrative Penalties ~

Tara Welch has been named the recipient of Hampton Roads Sanitation District's environmental scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year. She will use the \$3,000 scholarship to pursue graduate studies in environmental engineering at Old Dominion University (ODU) this fall. Welch graduated this May from ODU with a B. S. in civil engineering and a specialization in hydraulics and a minor in environmental engineering. She is a resident of Portsmouth and attended Woodrow Wilson High School.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must permanently reside within HRSD's service area of 17 cities and counties in southeast Virginia. Also, an applicant must be a full-time graduate student in a public Virginia university enrolled in one of the following disciplines: environmental health, environmental chemistry, biology, or civil or environmental engineering. HRSD employees and commissioners and their relatives are not eligible.

The HRSD environmental scholarship fund is administered by the Norfolk Foundation, a community trust established in 1950 to distribute charitable funds. This permanent, perpetual scholarship fund provides one scholarship each year. Scholarships are funded by administrative penalties levied against businesses and industries that fail to meet their permit requirements.

Penalty monies are returned to the community through support of environmental education and outreach projects. Recently, grants were also awarded to the Mattaponi Heritage Foundation for shad restoration and water quality monitoring (\$1,000), the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for their submerged aquatic vegetation program (\$10,000), and the Virginia Living Museum for environmental education (\$10,000).

HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 1.5 million people in 17 cities and counties. Our mission is to prevent pollution, protect public health, and support community development by providing wastewater collection, treatment, and related services.

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