Two Civil and Environmental Engineering Students from Utah State University successfully beat out competitors from the University of Utah, Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University and received the first and second place for the 2014 Dr. Robert W. Okey Scholarships at the graduate level. Ayman Alafifi and Ali Salha, doctoral students in environmental engineering received the first and second places respectively. Both Alafifi and Salha designed an industrial pretreatment system that would keep a municipal wastewater treatment plant in regulatory compliance. The competition also entailed coming up with innovative designs to address a multitude of potential and emergent contaminants.

The scholarships were offered to Alafifi and Salha during the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) Mid Year Conference on November 18, 2014 in Salt Lake City, UT. This is the second year in a row that USU students have won the competition. “We are very proud of Ayman and Ali’s achievement. The Board said the applications this year were very competitive, but the awardees submitted the best applications we have seen since we started awarding this scholarship”, says Dr. Michael McFarland, associate professor in USU’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, WEAU board member and faculty advisor to USU WEAU Student Chapter.