June 10, 2016 – Utah State University offered nearly $1 million in scholarship funding on Thursday to a group of high school students attending their last day of a weeklong engineering summer camp.

The juniors and seniors were participating in the annual Engineering State, or ‘E-State’ event designed to introduce young people to engineering and computer science. On Thursday the group attended a closing awards banquet where 80 out of 240 students were offered scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $41,000.

The awards are university-funded scholarships available to any incoming freshman who meets a specific index score based on GPA and SAT/ACT scores.
Craig Whyte, associate director of enrollment and recruitment at USU, said a total of $954,300 was offered to both in- and out-of-state students. Whyte said the amount is the largest ever offered in the history of E-State. The offer coincided with the closing day of the event, one of the College of Engineering's key recruiting programs.

“Engineering State not only attracts some of the most talented students to USU, but provides an opportunity to discover what research and hands-on learning are all about,” said Whyte. “We hope students leave campus with a greater desire to continue their education at USU and to join our Aggie Family.”

240 high school students from across the region participated in E-State.

College of Engineering Dean Christine Hailey said offering the scholarships during E-State is one of the best ways to appeal to freshmen considering engineering.

“It speaks to the quality of students we’re looking for to join the engineering program,” she said. “Our college attracts some of the best students entering Utah State, and Engineering State and these generous award offers help these students and their parents recognize the value and quality of our academic programs.”

Dean Adams, an associate dean in the College of Engineering, says E-State is a powerful recruiting tool for the university and one that helps future students explore the opportunities available in STEM fields, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

“We are delighted to host the many high achieving young women and men at Engineering State,” said Adams. “It is so refreshing to see the creative and innovative ideas that the students display. We look forward to these students coming to USU to pursue a degree in the College of Engineering in the near future.”
Organizers also bid farewell to the program’s director of 14 years. Kathy Phippen, a business manager for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been E-State director since 2003. Hailey thanked Phippen for her years of service and said the program succeeds thanks in part to her tireless leadership.

Additional College of Engineering scholarships were offered to three female and three male students who participated in an essay competition. All E-State participants are offered a $100 scholarship their freshman year if they enroll in an engineering or computer science major and $200 if they stick with the program through their sophomore year.

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