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**A. O. SMITH MAKES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE**  
*Awards 2007 Annual Professional Contractor Association Scholarships*

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. - August 2, 2007 - A. O. Smith Water Products Company today announced the recipients of the 2007 A. O. Smith Professional Contractor Association (PCA) Scholarship Program. The 10 finalists were selected from more than 150 applicants nationwide, and each recipient received \$2,000 to apply toward higher education pursuits.

"A. O. Smith considers it an honor to provide assistance to these worthy recipients in their academic endeavors," said Mike Parker, vice president of marketing at A. O. Smith Water Products Company. "At any level it is great to have hard work recognized, and we are proud to encourage these students to continue striving toward achieving their dreams."

The 10 scholarship recipients are:

- **Matthew C. Agan** of Rome, Ga., a biology and Spanish major at the University of Georgia
- **Marla R. Cordray** of Falmouth, Ky., a mathematics and education major at Northern Kentucky University
- **Kelly A. Jansen** of Neoga, Ill., a marketing major at Illinois State University
- **Trisha G. Lounsberry** of Gobles, Mich., a systems and finance major at Grand Valley State University

- **Megan L. McKee** of Bowling Green, Ky., enrolled at Western Kentucky University with interests in the medical field
- **Jenna M. Ronnebaum** of Axtell, Kan., a nursing student at the Washburn University of Topeka
- **Erica J. Russell** of Jerseyville, Ill., enrolled at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy
- **Julie M. Stefanski** of Baltimore, Md., a biology major at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland
- **Amanda M. Wilczynski** of Gibsonia, Pa., an English literature major at Carnegie Mellon University
- **Bailey Wilson** of Caldwell, Idaho, a justice studies major at the University of Idaho

The scholarship program is open to high school seniors, high school graduates, and GED recipients or students currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school. Any spouse, child or grandchild of a PCA member with a desire for continuing their education may compete for a scholarship award.

In June 1999, A. O. Smith founded the Professional Contractor Association in order to help contractors succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace. In addition to the scholarship program, the PCA offers its members valuable business training and services to enhance their professional image and expand their business into new commercial water heater markets. For more information, visit [www.aospca.com](http://www.aospca.com).

#### **About A. O. Smith:**

Headquartered in Ashland City, Tenn., A. O. Smith Water Products Company is a leading manufacturer and marketer of residential and commercial water heaters and hydronic boilers. A. O. Smith offers contractors an additional competitive advantage in that the company designs, builds, distributes and field supports the world's broadest and deepest line of residential and commercial water heaters, as well as commercial boilers. This single-source concept simplifies ordering, installation and service and is backed by

more than 70 years of research and innovation. For more information, visit [www.hotwater.com](http://www.hotwater.com).

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