

AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholarship Graduates continue to Think Big

AIEF has been partnered with BHP since 2010, with the tertiary scholarship launched in 2013 to complement the secondary scholarship program. Since then, AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholarships have been awarded to outstanding Indigenous students undertaking engineering, science and other degrees, who aspire to work with BHP and to one day become leaders in business.

Five AIEF-BHP scholars, Neika Chatfield, Darby Conley, Wyatt Cook-Revell, Liam Lawford and Jarrod Ward, completed their tertiary studies in 2020. They join a cohort of 16 other Indigenous students who have graduated from university on AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholarships.

Three of the 2020 graduates have recently commenced full time roles with BHP at various sites around Australia, following in the footsteps of six other AIEF Alumni who currently work for BHP. Meet the 2020 graduates below.

Jarrod Ward

After graduating from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Science in 2020, **Jarrod Ward** succeeded in becoming the first in his family to complete a tertiary education. He has recently commenced a graduate position with BHP in WA.



“The support from AIEF allowed me time to think towards my career and what I want to do with my education. I was able to attend over two dozen separate field work opportunities, which provided invaluable experiences with research leaders that reaffirmed my desire to work in my chosen field.” Throughout his studies, Jarrod also completed summer internships at the Olympic Dam and Saraji mines. “I was lucky enough to be offered an internship opportunity at the BHP copper mine site in SA. I spent three months there making friendships, learning about the industry and honestly enjoying myself. The people I worked with through that internship and my previous one in Central Queensland coal were nothing but supportive and open, teaching me what they could with every opportunity.”

Neika Chatfield

Fellow AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholar **Neika Chatfield** also had a successful year in 2020. The winner of the Indigenous Women Engineering Excellence Prize for 2019, Neikagraduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Mining Engineering.



“Completing my thesis has been one of my biggest accomplishments so far,” Neika explains. “My topic was the impact of confinement conditions on blast energy intensity.” Throughout the course of her studies, Neika completed summer internships with BHP at the Daunia and Goonyella Riverside mines and has recently started in a graduate role with BHP at Peak Downs Mine.

Liam Lawford

After completing an internship with BHP in their Brisbane office over the summer of 2019/20, AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholar **Liam Lawford** was offered a part-time role, balancing work and study commitments with his final year of university. Liam graduated from The University of Queensland at the end of 2020 with a Bachelor of Commerce and has recently begun his graduate position in the Project (NPI) team.



“I am incredibly grateful to both AIEF and BHP for the support, guidance and opportunities they have provided me and look forward to one day being able to pay it forward,” Liam says.

“I am unsure where I will be five years from now, but know I would not be there without the AIEF-BHP Tertiary Scholarship.”