

ASABE 2018 - Major Awards



Kelsey McDonough

Kelsey McDonough is the 2018 recipient of the Pharos of Alexandria Global Learning Award for her exhibited desire to improve humanity through engineering leadership.

McDonough is a PhD candidate at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Her dissertation research examines spatiotemporal trends of water resources and ecosystem services within the central United States. In this research, McDonough is investigating the influence of a changing climate on water resources and water security in the central United States. She is also analyzing the spatiotemporal impacts of urban development on flash flooding and ecosystem service provision.

McDonough graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biological engineering from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 2014. While at NCSU, McDonough was a member of Women in Science and Engineering, Engineers without Borders, and the NCSU ASABE student chapter. She received the Senior Leadership Award from the NCSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering in 2014.

She is an outstanding leader capable of developing and leading award-winning teams. McDonough was the leader of a team of students that won the Environmental Protection Agency's 2016 Campus Rainworks Challenge for their innovative low-impact development design for the Kansas State University campus. She was also a member of a team that won the Student Design Competition at the 2016 Great Plains Low-Impact Development Symposium. In 2017, McDonough's team placed first in the ASABE Ethics Video Challenge.

McDonough is a highly effective technical engineer who is working to develop global water management solutions. She has given two invited presentations, one at the International Workshop for Water Resources Utilizations and Management at China Three Gorges University, and the second at a low-impact development workshop hosted by the University of Arkansas. She is a co-author of four peer-reviewed articles or conference proceeding papers and co-PI on a grant from the Federal Highway Administration. McDonough received the Graduate Student of the Year award from the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Kansas State University in 2017. McDonough will graduate with her doctoral degree in December 2018 and plans to pursue a career in research and academia.