



## Joseph Hanks

**Joseph Hanks** is the recipient of the 2023 Roger R. and Laura M. Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year award. He was selected for this award for his scholastic excellence and for serving as a tremendous leader within biological engineering and across his university.

Hanks is an Engineering Associate with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Raleigh, North Carolina. With NCDOT, he conducts roadway and structural inspections and redesigns failed culvert crossings amongst several other maintenance and operations tasks. Hanks graduated summa cum laude last month with his undergraduate degree in biological engineering with a concentration in agricultural engineering from North Carolina State University (NCSU). Hanks also passed his Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam in December of 2022.

At NCSU, Hanks was team captain of the 2022 ASABE Fountain Wars team which won third place in competition at the Annual International Meeting in Houston, Texas. Hanks has been an active member of the NCSU student chapter of ASABE for the last 2 years. In 2021, he was a member of the Pack Pullers, the NCSU ASABE ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design team. Hanks was also a small group leader for 3 years with Cru (an on campus Christian organization) and was a 4-year member of the NCSU Marching Band, serving as trombone section leader for his final 2 years.

Outside of NCSU, Hanks held an internship with the NC Department of Agriculture Division of Soil and Water Conservation during the summer

of 2022. With NCDA, Hanks designed and oversaw construction of several freshwater ponds, stream-bank stabilizations, and water control structures to ensure compliance with current NRCS standards. Prior to his employment with NCDA, Hanks interned with the NCDOT Hydraulics Unit where he assisted in the hydraulic analysis of several bridges. He also developed a user guide for the Hydraulics Unit's GPS surveying equipment to be used by future interns.

Throughout his education, Hanks has received a number of awards and scholarships including the NCSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering Senior Leadership award, the Jane P. and Charles W. Suggs scholarship, the North Carolina Garden Club Inc. scholarship, and the Eleanor L. Yates scholarship.