



Press release
28 May 2025

Sheilah Njoka awarded an SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Sheilah Njoka** has been awarded a 2025 Optics and Photonics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Sheilah is a master's student in electro-optics at the University of Dayton (USA), in the Department of Electro-Optics and Photonics. Her research, mentored by Professor **Swapnajit Chakravarty**, focuses on developing affordable, chip-scale photonic devices for biomedical diagnostics, environmental monitoring, and memory technologies, using integrated silicon photonics. "Receiving the SPIE scholarship reflects a belief in the potential of young scientists and engineers," said Sheilah, "As someone who began their academic path in Kenya, I hope this milestone encourages students across Africa to believe in the value of their aspirations. I'm committed to growing into a role where I can give back through outreach, mentorship, and leadership."

This month, the Society is awarding \$323,000 in scholarships to 74 outstanding SPIE Student Members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Successful applicants were evaluated, selected, and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, chaired by SPIE Senior Member **Brian Primeau**.

Since this program began in 1978, SPIE has distributed more than \$7.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education as well as to the future generations of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2025 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2025 Scholarship Recipients page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on spie.org.

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, we have invested more than \$25 million in the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. www.spie.org.

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