The Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry has awarded scholarships to Jennifer LaFever, Sheri Lynn Strattan and Jonathan Wies, to help them further their education in a construction-related curriculum. Both Stratum and Wies have won the scholarship for a second time.

Each has already received a $750 grant toward tuition costs for the fall 2001 semester. By maintaining an acceptable grade point average and a full-time course schedule, they will receive up to three more $750 grants for their next semesters of study, provided they maintain good grades and a good academic standing.

The scholarships are given only to students pursuing a post-high school education in construction management, engineering or architecture. Applicants must be direct dependents of someone who works for an AWCI member company or be employed directly by an AWCI member company.

Selection criteria include a combination of grades, extracurricular activities, references and employment history. Members of the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee review the applications and select the winner. The winners are announced at the AWCI convention, in the spring.

Meet the Winners

LaFever lives in Hollister, Calif. She is the daughter of John LaFever and Michele McDonald, who is an estimator and project manager for Culberson Drywall of Mt. View, Calif. She is studying engineering at the University of California, Davis.

Strattan lives in Cheboygan, Mich., and is the daughter of Gordie Strattan and Laurie Strattan. Gordie is a carpenter with Bouma Corporation, Grand Rapids, Mich. She is a junior studying architectural illustration at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Mich.

Wies lives in Wentzville, Mo., and is the son of Terry and Versy Wies. Terry is president of Wies Drywall and Construction Corporation of St. Louis, MO. He is a junior studying engineering management at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

What They Would Build

As part of the application process, applicants answer an essay question about what they would build, renovate, design or engineer if they had an infinite budget and resources. Here’s what they said.

A Youth Center. LaFever would build a youth center in the Silicon Valley. The building’s exterior would resemble a cathedral, and she would use Italian marble over a metal stud frame. The building would have 25-foot oak doors and stained glass windows. The foyer’s walls, ceiling and floor would be made of stainless steel.

The interior would look abstract, modern and futuristic, and contain recording studios, a kitchen, a prayer room, a media room and a library. There also would be a rotating stage made of metal studs and plywood. The stage’s floor would have a texture that could be changed to one of four settings with the flip of a switch.

An athletic area behind the stage would
feature odd-shaped overhangs on each door and a round wall made with metal track. The walls would have a bubble effect made by taking a plunger to a thin layer of mud on the walls.

The Policeman’s Memorial. Strattan’s project would be a Policeman’s Memorial. The structure would host offices, classrooms, a reading and research room and restrooms. The exterior walls of the memorial would be made of precast concrete slabs containing a high gypsum mix, which would make the building a bright white. The roof would be made of soldered zinc.

A bubble-like glass chapel made entirely of clear glass—including the floor, walls and seats. Strattan believes the transparency provided by the glass would make people experience a feeling of fear and risk, just like a police officer might feel in the line of duty.

Rekindling Jazz in St. Louis. Wies would renovate the Savvis Center (formerly the Kiel Center, which replaced the Kiel Auditorium and Kiel Opera House in 1992) in St. Louis, making it a jazz museum.

The opera house’s facade would be preserved, but the interior would be demolished and renovated. The floor would be covered with burgundy carpet, and glass cases filled with jazz memorabilia would line the walls. Double-sided cases would be used in the theater area as partitions. The museum would be lighted with large fluorescent lamps hung from the ceiling, and track lighting would be used to accent the display cases. All the walls would be half-inch drywall on steel studs.

Replacing the opera house’s stage would be a small, wooden dance floor in front of a replica of a swing orchestra. Atmosphere would be provided by a speaker system extending throughout the facility that softly plays many types of jazz.

What’s New for 2002

The Foundation’s scholarship program continues to evolve. For the first time, instead of awarding scholarships to several deserving students, this year one lucky scholar will receive a $10,000 scholarship. The first portion of the scholarship will be distributed in time for the fall 2002 semester.

Contact the Foundation at (703) 538-1615 to receive an application, or visit www.awci.org for more information. The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2002.