Castagra is pleased to announce the WINNERS of the 2026 Castagra Roofing Scholarship Program

The WINNER of the 2026 Castagra Roofing Scholarship Program is Alexis Navarro, a Civil Engineering student at The University of Texas at El Paso.



ALEXIS NAVARRO

"I want to build my career at the intersection of construction engineering and environmental engineering. I am fascinated by the idea that the structures we construct can do more than serve their immediate purpose. The materials we select, the way buildings respond to heat, how much water a property requires, and how efficiently we construct and maintain infrastructure can all contribute to, or work against, the sustainability of a community.

Sustainable innovation must also be accessible. We can develop extraordinary technologies, but if they are too expensive or impractical for the communities that need them most, we have not fully solved the problem. That is what excites me about the future of construction and environmental engineering. I want to research ways that sustainable materials, water conservation, passive cooling, green infrastructure, and emerging technologies can work together. I want to ask whether our buildings can require less water and energy, whether materials can last longer in extreme environments, and whether infrastructure can become more resilient without becoming inaccessible. Innovation, to me, begins with asking, "Can we do this better?"

After earning my bachelor's degree in civil engineering, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental engineering focused on sustainability and innovation. I want to conduct research that bridges environmental and construction engineering and helps develop practical solutions for hot, water scarce regions. More importantly, I do not want that research to remain inside a laboratory or academic journal. I want to bring it home."

The Runner-Up Winner is Stephen Colar Jr., who earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in City Planning at MIT.



STEPHEN COLAR JR.

"A roof is often treated as a building component repaired only after a storm, but I believe roofing should be part of community emergency preparedness long before disaster strikes. Through resilient roofing strategies, I aim to reduce displacement, preserve important places, and improve public safety. As a first-year Master's in City Planning student at MIT, I plan to build upon my skills in Geographical Information System (GIS), data analysis, public policy, and community-engaged research. The knowledge I gain will allow me to evaluate roof conditions in connection with storm history, drainage challenges, underserved communities, emergency shelters, and historic resources.

My contribution to the roofing industry will be to expand its role beyond installation and post-disaster repair. I envision standardized roof assessments, GIS-based vulnerability maps, preapproved retrofit options, and emergency contractor networks. Roofing professionals could coordinate with planners, manufacturers, insurers, nonprofits, residents, and public agencies before storms occur. My long-term goal is to lead resilience initiatives that translate building data and community knowledge into practical standards. Through advanced education and industry collaboration, I will help make roofing an essential part of disaster preparedness and equitable recovery."

Congratulations Alexis and Stephen!

Applications for the 2027 Castagra Roofing Scholarship Program are opening soon! Follow Castagra on social media to learn more.