

RICHTER2026

Scholarship Recipients

Institute for Supply Management® and the
R. Gene Richter Scholarship Awards

Presented
APRIL 27, 2026



Recognizing excellence in supply management



Kearney proudly celebrates our Richter Scholars and their lasting impact on the firm.

Stephanie Bedard
Kevin Cronin
Amanda DeCook
Grant Edwards
Ryan Holcomb
Julia Lower

Megan Merola
Julianna Oswald
Rachel Travis
David Wu
Aiden Anderson

Your journey begins here: [kearney.com/working-here](https://www.kearney.com/working-here)

For more information, please contact cara.baiocchi@kearney.com

KEARNEY

100 Years of
Impact

2026 R. GENE RICHTER SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Nancy Richter

President
R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter
Foundation

Elizabeth Richter Dashe

Principal
R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter
Foundation

Jessica Boyd, MBA

Director, Communications,
Content & Community
Institute for Supply Management®

Meg Noonan

Awards and Community Programs Manager
Institute for Supply Management®

Susan Marty

Executive Vice President
and Chief Product Officer
Institute for Supply Management®

Shami Anand

Certified Leadership Coach
and Founder
Power Your Impact

Grace Zacharek, MBA

Senior Adviser
Cognex Corporation

2026 R. GENE RICHTER SCHOLARSHIP JUNIOR MENTORS

Alivia Clawson

BPO Consultant
IBM

Alec Cousino

Category Operational Buyer
Aptiv

James Webb Fox III

Subcontract Administrator
Lockheed Martin

Taahera Islam

Oxford Scholar
Oxford University

Megan Merola

Strategic Operations Business Analyst
Kearney

2026 R. GENE RICHTER SCHOLARSHIP EXECUTIVE MENTORS

Thank you to the following leaders who volunteered their time to mentor the 2026 Richter Scholars.

Flavio Alberino, MBA

Vice President, Procurement
& Supply Chain
TK Elevator

Jami Bliss, MBA, CPSM, CPSD

Senior Vice President,
Indirect Procurement
Smith + Nephew

Chris Martus, MBA, CPSM, CPSD

Vice President, Procurement
The Mosaic Company

Tony Miliikin

Chief Supply Chain Officer
Athletic Greens

Erin Mitchell, MBA

Chief Operating Officer
YMX Logistics

Linsey Vasilenko, MBA

Vice President, Procurement
& Strategic Sourcing
Baylor, Scott and White Health

R. GENE RICHTER

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The R. Gene Richter Scholarship program is a partnership between ISM and the R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter Foundation. It is viewed as the most esteemed scholarship program for exceptional students in supply management in the U.S. Established in 2004, the exclusive award honors students who have an outstanding GPA, are actively engaged in professional extracurricular activities and are passionate about the profession of supply management. The 2026 winners are no exception. Each of the recipients has proved strong commitment and dedication to the field and have worked hard to achieve tremendous accomplishments.

The 2026 R. Gene Richter Scholars make up the program's 23rd class. Each recipient receives US\$15,000 in education funding, the opportunity to work with a junior mentor (a previous Richter Scholar) and a senior (company executive) mentor. They also receive complimentary attendance to ISM World 2026, are celebrated at an exclusive executive session and honored at the ISM Awards Gala.

2026 AWARD WINNERS

RICHTER SCHOLARS

Mariana Agadis

Pennsylvania State University

Lucas Bruns

University of South Carolina

Isabella Chavez

University of Arkansas

Luke Ritchie

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Mason Stone

University of South Carolina

Jack Umsted

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2026 **AWARD WINNERS**
RICHTER SCHOLARS



Mariana Agadis

Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, Pennsylvania

Major: Supply chain and information systems

Minor: Information systems management

GPA: 4.0

Experience: During her internship in indirect procurement at Dell Technologies last summer, Mariana Agadis stepped up to lead a team of four interns working to find examples of misclassified spend and their root causes. She divided

the projects, assigned responsibilities and set deadlines. The team was then able to create an implementable solution of an AI chatbot that would assist employees in deciding the category in which to place a PO. Dell worked to implement the solution almost immediately. “Seeing our hard work validated by the indirect procurement team’s trust in our assessment and solution was incredibly rewarding,” Agadis said in her application. “Moving forward, I know I won’t hesitate to speak up sooner or step in to provide direction when a team needs it. This experience taught me that leadership is not always defined by a title, but is often the willingness to create a clear plan and hold others accountable.” Agadis also has had a purchasing internship at Clark Associates Inc., served as vice president of the campus Women Impacting Supply Chain Excellence (WISE) chapter and has held several positions, including president, of the university’s Nittany Lion Consulting Group. This summer, Agadis will be an AMR operations intern at Apple in Austin.

Pennsylvania State University

2026 AWARD WINNERS

RICHTER SCHOLARS



Lucas Bruns

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

Majors: Operations and supply chain management, and finance

GPA: 4.0

Experience: During his sophomore year, Lucas Bruns competed in the 4flow National Case Competition, where his team garnered first place. “This experience became a defining moment in my supply chain development both technically

and as a leader within a team setting,” Bruns wrote in his application. “This experience strengthened my belief that great supply chain solutions come from collaboration, shared leadership, and the power of a unified team leaning into their strengths. It solidified my passion for the field and my commitment to contributing as both a team player and a leader.” Last summer, Bruns interned as a global supply chain intern at Northrop Grumman in Huntsville, Alabama, where he (1) performed commercial item determinations, partnering with suppliers and using market data to source advanced components, (2) forecasted multimillion-dollar revenue programs, identifying variances and driving data-backed improvements, and (3) reduced overdue part numbers by 25 percent and enhanced SAP dashboard visibility. This summer, Bruns will intern as a banking analyst at JPMorgan Chase in Charlotte, North Carolina.

University of South Carolina

2026 AWARD WINNERS
RICHTER SCHOLARS



Isabella (Bella) Chavez

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Major: Supply chain management

Minor: Business analytics and finance

GPA: 3.95

Experience: One of Bella Chavez's most meaningful experiences was leading a team to first place in a supply chain case competition of about 300 students. Understanding that strong results require clarity, commitment and trust within a team, her first priority was setting expectations. She also learned team members' strengths and weaknesses and committed to thoroughly knowing the case. "Throughout the process, I focused on maintaining strong communication and encouraging collaboration," Chavez said in her application. "This experience reinforced my belief in the power of effective leadership and team dynamics. While no individual can achieve meaningful impact alone, a well-led team working toward a common goal can accomplish far more than expected." Chavez is president of the University of Arkansas Women Impacting Supply Chain Excellence (WISE) chapter. She is a founding member and previously served as vice president of Razorbook Reach, an organization focused on promoting literacy among children in underserved communities. Chavez has worked at Sam's Club for the past three semesters through the university's McMillon Innovation Studio. She has previously interned at Walmart and Nestle. This summer, she has a supply chain management internship at Deloitte.

University of Arkansas

2026 AWARD WINNERS

RICHTER SCHOLARS



Luke Ritchie

University of Tennessee — Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

Majors: Supply chain management and international business

Minor: German

GPA: 3.88

Experience: Luke Ritchie enjoys being challenged, diving deep into topics to fully understand them, and taking on leadership roles. The first semester after he was elected director of finance and logistics for the university's undergraduate chapter of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, he noticed that club attendance and participation were down. He created a data visualization dashboard to track event attendance and understand the issue. "I knew the real and practical value of the club: helping ambitious students identify their goals and offering proactive support along the way. I had seen the events, conversations and connections lead to opportunities that changed lives; in many ways, the club had changed my life, too," Ritchie wrote in his application. He presented his findings to the club's leadership and ultimately, after some discourse, an improvement strategy was developed and implemented, resulting in an increase in attendance. Ritchie was one of two students selected to attend an International Business Student Leadership Council in Medellín, Colombia as an ambassador for UTK. This spring, he attended Kühne Logistics University in Hamburg, Germany, where he studied sustainable supply chains, corporate strategy and internationalization, and more. He has interned in performance management at Hapag-Lloyd AG in Atlanta, where he analyzed how geopolitical disruptions affected company performance. He also has interned as a warehouse technician and delivery driver at Isle Cycle. This summer, he is interning at Bridgestone Americas.

University of Tennessee

2026 **AWARD WINNERS**
RICHTER SCHOLARS



Mason Stone

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

Majors: International business, operations and supply chain management

Minor: Spanish, data analytics

GPA: 3.9

Experience: To support himself through college, Mason Stone took a position during his freshman year with Tailgate Group as a gameday operator,

traveling across the Southeast on weekends to set up private tailgates for college football games. In his second year, having been promoted to regional operations manager, his responsibilities expanded to weekly labor planning and scheduling, inventory management, and hiring and onboarding new employees. “Many weekends required coordinating up to 150 tailgates in multiple states simultaneously. These new challenges forced me to step into a leadership position quickly and learn how to steer a team toward a shared goal,” Stone wrote in his application. He learned how to create efficiencies to eliminate unnecessary work, maximize time and better distribute labor. “My biggest takeaway was the importance of involving stakeholders at every level. ... Through this experience, I learned that effective leadership comes from listening, adapting, and working alongside others to turn individual efforts into shared success.” Stone was an operations intern at ADUSA Distribution and Transportation in 2024 and a consulting intern at 4flow last summer. He has participated in several national and international case challenges, with his team achieving first place, and has studied abroad in Santiago, Chile.

University of South Carolina

2026 **AWARD WINNERS**
RICHTER SCHOLARS



Jack Umsted

University of Tennessee — Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

Major: Supply chain management

Minor: Spanish

GPA: 3.96

Experience: During his internship at Procter & Gamble, Jack Umsted collaborated with three other interns on a supply chain optimization project for promotional events. Initially, the team divided responsibilities and necessary contributions equally, without a designated leader. “Midway through the project, our managers conducted a progress review and provided individual feedback. They highlighted my analytical skills and ability to transform complex data into actionable insights, as well as the clarity of my presentations,” Umsted said. “Following this review, each of my peers reached out separately, sharing that their managers encouraged them to seek my guidance for developing presentations and communicating findings.” Umsted stepped up as the team’s leader while maintaining the analytics role, where he identified a multimillion dollar savings opportunity. “This experience taught me that strong leadership not only comes from the ability to recognize and leverage others’ strengths, but also the ability to coach through weaknesses,” Umsted wrote in his application. He will return this summer to intern at P&G.

University of Tennessee

2026 AWARD WINNERS SPONSORS

GOLD

KEARNEY

Kearney is a leading global management consulting firm with more than 5,700 people working in more than 40 countries. We work with more than three-quarters of the Fortune Global 500, as well as with the most influential governmental and nonprofit organizations.

SILVER



Eclaro is an award-winning talent-solutions firm providing strategic staffing and consulting, custom outsourcing and offshoring, and direct placement services to clients globally across diverse industries. We specialize in the recruitment and management of highly skilled professionals, supporting clients ranging in size from innovative startups to industry-leading Fortune 50 companies.



GSK unites science, technology and talent to get ahead of disease together. We are a company where understanding and people can thrive. Our global procurement team is proud to cultivate leadership and enrich professional development.

BRONZE



AIMDRIVE-AI is industry's first AI-powered supply chain cost management platform. price and cost analysis platform. It empowers teams with price and cost analysis, real-time cost models, supplier collaboration, and actionable insights to unlock sustainable savings. Built on 35+ years of industry expertise spanning 120+ clients, AIMDRIVE-AI delivers measurable benchmark cost savings of 10 percent to 12 percent to large companies and SMEs.



LUCENDO

Lucendo is the first of its kind comprehensive leadership system. Based on top university research (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Technical University Munich) and calibrated with the experience of global F500 leader's and top entrepreneur's success factors, Lucendo delivers world-class tools and personalized behavioral insights that elevate leadership — strategically and in the everyday.



TriSearch is an International full-service talent acquisition firm that helps clients fill roles and improve their internal recruiting operations. Recognized by Forbes and Hunt Scanlon as a Top Nationwide Recruiting Firm, TriSearch provides Customized Partnership Recruiting (CPR) for filling multiple roles, TriSearch Hourly, and Targeted Single Search (TSS). TriSearch offers customizable and scalable talent solutions that focus on a client's specific requirements while placing professionals at all levels and across all functional areas, throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.



About Institute for Supply Management®

Institute for Supply Management® (ISM®) is the first and leading not-for-profit professional supply management organization worldwide. Its community of more than 200,000 in more than 100 countries around the world manage about US\$1 trillion in corporate and government supply chain procurement annually. Founded in 1915 by practitioners, ISM is committed to connect and empower the global supply chain community to advance individual and organizational success. ISM empowers and leads the profession through the ISM® PMI® Reports, its highly-regarded certification and training programs, corporate services, events and assessments. The ISM® PMI® Reports, Manufacturing and Services, are two of the most reliable economic indicators available, providing guidance to supply management professionals, economists, analysts, and government and business leaders. For more information, please visit: www.ismworld.org.



About R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter Foundation

The R. Gene Richter Scholarship Program was established in memory of supply management innovator and leader R. Gene Richter. Richter is admired for elevating the profession to world-class stature. He led the supply organizations at Black & Decker Corporation, Hewlett-Packard and International Business Machines (IBM). The scholarship program is administered by the Foundation and ISM®.

The R. Gene and Nancy D. Richter Foundation is a 501c3 private family foundation devoted to community service. It offers educational opportunities to supply chain and non-traditional undergraduates as well as supporting other community interests. It offers two scholarship programs, the R. Gene Richter Scholarship and the Nancy D. Richter Scholarship. The R. Gene Richter Scholarship identifies the future leaders of supply chain management and fast-tracks those individuals into the profession through a program of tuition assistance, executive mentoring, junior mentoring and networking. For more information, please visit: www.richterfoundation.org.