



13846 Conference Center Drive ♦ Apple Valley, California 92307 ♦ P: (760) 946-7000 ♦ F: (760) 240-2642

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Charlene Engeron, Public Information Officer  
(760) 946-7001 or [cengeron@mojavewater.org](mailto:cengeron@mojavewater.org)

### **Mojave Water Agency opens scholarship contest to local students**

Apple Valley, CA — High school students in the Mojave Water Agency service area have until Oct. 18 to submit an essay that could earn up to \$3,000 in scholarship funding as part of the Agency’s Student Essay Contest. This year’s theme is “Revitalizing the Water Infrastructure Workforce for a Sustainable Future.”

“This is a great opportunity for high school students to share solutions for the future water industry workforce,” said Board President Dr. Kimberly Cox. “As part of our larger Water Summit event, the Essay Contest is a way for students to polish their public speaking skills, exercise their literary prowess, and offer valuable insight on these water related issues.”

Essays should explore the potential for turning the current workforce gap into an opportunity for the next generation. Investigate the factors leading to the decline in water infrastructure personnel, including demographic shifts and job perception issues. Propose strategies to attract and retain new talent, such as offering competitive wages, creating career advancement opportunities, and improving workplace conditions.

A winning essay will demonstrate creativity, be well-sourced and provide realistic solutions that water agencies can put into practice. The top three finalists will be assigned a community mentor or coach to polish their presentation for a verbal presentation on Nov. 14 to a selection panel in front of a small audience, which may include family.

The essay contest winner must present his or her essay at the 2025 Innovators High Desert Water Summit on Feb. 7 at the High Desert Church campus in Victorville.

The winner will receive a scholarship of \$3,000 and the remaining two finalists will each receive a scholarship of \$1,000.

Register online at <https://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/water-university/water-summit/>.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Fratt at [efratt@mojavewater.org](mailto:efratt@mojavewater.org) or at (760) 946-7054.

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