

AEG FOUNDATION



CHARTER

SUSAN STEELE WEIR “WOMEN OF STEELE” SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SUPPORTING WOMEN UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGY THROUGH
SCHOLARSHIPS

AEG FOUNDATION
EMAIL: STAFF@AEGFOUNDATION.ORG
WEB: WWW.AEGFOUNDATION.ORG

THE PURPOSE OF AEG FOUNDATION FUND CHARTERS

An AEG Foundation Fund Charter is a document adopted by the Foundation’s Board of Directors (Board). It describes (as applicable)

- the history of a fund,
- donor intent,
- the purposes for which the fund may and may not be used,
- the Board’s goals for the fund,
- administrative operating criteria, and
- financial operating criteria.

A Fund Charter demonstrates the Board’s commitment to prudent management of the Foundation’s resources and compliance with applicable accounting and legal standards. Within the framework of AEG Foundation governance, a Fund Charter is a policy document that may be amended or interpreted by the Board through a simple majority vote. A Fund Charter may refer to other documents that further describe the history, nature, and operations of a fund. Significant historical formal resolutions of the Board that apply to a particular fund are attached to the Fund Charter in an appendix.

This Charter revision for the Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund of the AEG Foundation was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the AEG Foundation on July 8, 2024.



By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosalind Munro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rosalind Munro, Secretary

FUND CHARTER
SUSAN STEELE WEIR “WOMEN OF STEELE” SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The AEG Foundation Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund was established by the AEG Foundation in 2017 to support environmental and engineering geology studies for women students at the undergraduate and graduate levels at accredited universities.

The Fund name honors the professional contributions, work, and pioneering career of Susan Steele Weir who became a geologist when the field was dominated by men. After graduating from college in the early 1970s she landed a job with the U.S. Geological Survey where, she would often find, the first female footprints would be her own. Her career took her underground, first geologically mapping tunnel sites for the testing of nuclear weapons and then to construction for water transportation tunnels in the Rocky Mountains. She is a Past President and Honorary Member of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG), and she has served on the AEG Foundation Board of Directors.

The purpose and scope of the AEG Foundation Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund, developed in cooperation with the original donors, are:

The Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship supports environmental and engineering geology studies for women students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Awards will be made by the AEG Foundation to outstanding women students based on demonstrated ability, scholarship, potential for contributions to the profession, character, and activities in professional societies, particularly the AEG.

Additional information is provided in the attached appendices.

Appendix One	Gift Instrument
Appendix Two	Biographical Information
Appendix Three	Scholarship Recipients
Appendix Four	Board Resolutions and Motions

FUND MANAGEMENT AND DONATIONS

The fund management will be in accordance with the current AEG Foundation Fund Management Policy and subsequent updates. Donations accepted will be in accordance with the current AEG Foundation Gift Acceptance Policy and subsequent updates.

Fund distribution will be in accordance with the Gift Instrument in Appendix One.

FUND ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

General Conditions

Scholarships from the AEG Foundation Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund are intended to support environmental and engineering geology studies for women students at the undergraduate and graduate levels at accredited universities. This can include field studies, research studies, or tuition.

In keeping with the Internal Revenue Code classification of the AEG Foundation as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation will not make scholarships supporting publications that are designed to be used to influence political decisions or processes. The AEG Foundation Board will make all decisions regarding scholarships from the Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund in its sole discretion.

Accounting terminology used in this Fund Charter is intended to conform to Accounting Standards Codification (ASC).

In applying for a scholarship from the AEG Foundation, the scholarship applicant agrees to:

- use the funds received from the AEG Foundation directly for the proposed use;
- use the funds in accordance with applicable law and regulation;
- avoid activities in the use of the funds that would jeopardize the AEG Foundation’s tax-exempt status;
- track the receipt and expenditure of scholarship funds in a way that provides a clear audit trail demonstrating compliance with appropriate accounting standards;
- provide the Foundation with a brief written report that documents and describes research or activities sponsored by the scholarship;
- acknowledge the support of the AEG Foundation in any publications and presentations that make use of the work supported by the scholarship; and
- provide the Foundation with one electronic copy of any publication that incorporates work supported by the scholarship.
- obtain and/or maintain student membership in the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists during the life of the grant.

Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarships are not payment for services and are intended by the Foundation to be “qualified scholarships” as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. The AEG Foundation shall issue IRS Forms 1099 to scholarship recipients in accordance with IRS regulations. Recipients will be asked to provide the necessary information for the AEG Foundation to complete the Form 1099 upon receipt of their scholarship. Recipients should consult their tax advisors regarding taxability of the scholarship.

Donor Intent

Recognizing donor intent, the establishing gift to the AEG Foundation is classified as an Asset with Donor Restriction until the initial contributions are expended for purposes consistent with

this Charter. The donor places no restrictions on “spending down” the gift. Additional gifts from any donor and any fund transfer from any AEG Foundation program or support fund will be classified as an Asset without Donor Restriction. Earnings from contributions are classified as an Asset without Donor Restriction.

See the Gift Instrument in Appendix One for additional information.

Scholarship Fund Operational Protocols

- The Foundation contemplates funding scholarships that can be carried to completion within one year of initiation unless a specific exception is approved by the Board.
- Each year the Board will determine the amount of funds available for award in the following year.
- Scholarship applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Board. The Board shall approve the appointment of the chair of the Selection Committee.
- Scholarships will be approved or further conditioned by approval of a motion made at a Board meeting.
- Scholarship applications should be received at least 90 days before funding is required.
- The Foundation may disburse scholarship in stages, depending on progress made.
- Disbursements from the Susan Steele Weir “Women of Steele” Scholarship Fund will be made payable to the academic institution unless due to timing or specific activities covered disbursement to the student directly is appropriate per decision by the AEG Foundation BOD.

SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW OF CHARTER

The Board may maintain this Charter unchanged or make revisions at any time. This fund Charter shall be reviewed by the Board at least every five years, on a schedule to be determined by the Board. The Programs Committee shall prepare recommendations for consideration by the Board at that time.

APPENDIX ONE GIFT INSTRUMENT

Founding Donor's goal for the use of the Fund

The Fund is intended to support environmental and engineering geology studies for women students at the undergraduate and graduate levels at accredited universities. This can include field studies, research studies, or tuition.

Founding Donor's goal regarding the initial fund corpus

The Fund is permitted to spend down the funds to meet the goals of the Fund and is not required to maintain a specific balance.

The original fund corpus is an asset with donor restriction in accordance to the Gift Instrument.

Founding Donor's goal regarding additional donations and income.

Additional donations and income to the Fund are unrestricted.

Maximum individual scholarship or maximum total award

There are no restrictions to a maximum individual scholarship fee or maximum total award for the year. The intent is to provide flexibility to adjust the awards to match the actual fees students are incurring.

Founding Donor's goal regarding the lifespan of the Fund.

If the Fund does not award any grants or scholarships for 5 consecutive years, and the Board has not identified a route forward to continue use of the Fund, the Funding Donor wishes the remaining funds in the budget to be moved to the AEG Foundation Norman R. Tilford Field Studies Scholarship Fund.

APPENDIX TWO BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Fund name honors the professional contributions, work, and pioneering career of Susan Steele Weir who became a geologist when the field was completely dominated by men. After graduating from college in the early 1970s she landed a job with the U.S. Geological Survey where, she would often find, the first female footprints would be her own. Her career took her underground, first geologically mapping tunnel sites for the testing of nuclear weapons and then to construction for water transportation tunnels in the Rocky Mountains. She is a Past President and Honorary Member of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG), and she has served on the AEG Foundation Board of Directors.

**APPENDIX THREE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

- 2017 Ariel Rickel, Colorado School of Mines
- 2018 Anna Stanczyk, University of Utah
- 2019 Regan Wess, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- 2020 Catherine Hobart, Baylor University
- 2021 Emma Fuentes, Angelo State University
- 2022 Lauren Miller, Colorado School of Mines
- 2023 Elise Chan, Middlebury College
- 2024 Nishanti K. Perera, University of Washington

**APPENDIX FOUR
BOARD RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

- 09/01/2017 Original Fund Charter approved by AEG Foundation Board of Directors.
- 06/12/2018 Updated with recipient name and school
- 06/08/2020 Changes to Application Review protocol.
- 11/13/2020 Updated Foundation mailing address
Updated recipient names and universities
- 12/06/2021 Updated Fund Management Nomenclature in Accordance with ASC Standards.
- 07/08/2024 Addition of Gift Instrument and simplification of Charter.