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College Council Grants Go to Two New York Schools for Research Projects

ALBANY – Two New York State universities were named as recipients for the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling’s (NYSAR³) College Council Grant Program.

Pace University received \$4,900 to install microplastic filters on the washing machines in Beekman and Maria’s Tower. Microfibers, a type of microplastic, are released from clothing during washing, which travel in wash water to nearby wastewater treatment plants. Many microfibers settle into the sludge, but some remain in the treated water that is released in water bodies. This project aims to reduce pollution from microfibers and educate the campus body about the issue through an outreach campaign.

The State University of New York (SUNY) at Canton was awarded \$3,800. The college will use the funds to develop technology and conduct research in how to make the filament recycling from 3-D printing easier, cheaper and more efficient. An emerging technology, 3-D printing serves a number of industries from medicine to art, but creates a significant amount of plastic waste due to failed iterations.

The 2019 grant winners were announced on Earth Day. NYSAR³ with support from the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), awards up to \$10,000 for projects that focus on source reduction, reuse, or recycling to member institutions of NYSAR³’s College Council. The Council is designed to provide a forum for college students, staff and faculty to share information about common challenges and best practices related to recycling, waste prevention, and other environmental issues.

NYSAR³, the premiere recycling organization in New York State, provides members with expertise and education on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment. The group advocates for policies and programs that support environmental sustainability in the Empire State and provides access to a network of individuals and organizations that share ideas about reduction, reuse, recycling and organics programs, as well as information on education and funding. More details are available on their website: www.NYSAR3.org.

The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Environmental Protection fund. NYSP2I is led by the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and is a partnership between RIT, Binghamton University, Cornell University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. NYSP2I also works with the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help increase deployment and diffusion of pollution prevention solutions to support environmental sustainability and economic growth through the state.