

Paul Barker is a Colorado native who is an Undergraduate at the Colorado School of Mines. He currently serves as the Student President of the Grand Challenges Program there and is helping the program round out its second year. At Mines, he is an undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Data Science and hopes to pursue a career melding together computer learning with mechanical solutions. Paul became a Grand Challenges Scholar because engineering does not happen in a vacuum and to fully solve 21st-century engineering problems one needs more than just STEM proficiencies, they need to understand the social, political and global aspects of their products. He has applied these skills within two summers as an intern at the Colorado Department of Transportation working with the state's bridge network and the Grand Challenge of Improving Urban Infrastructure. This experience, however, is only the tip of the iceberg, and he is very excited to see what's on the horizon as he continues to grow as not only an engineer but as a person in this program.