



SAFER-SIM Excellence Award Undergraduate Winners

One student from each of the SAFER-SIM Institutes was awarded our Excellence Award, who have the following:

- Provided notable support to a SAFER-SIM project prior to receiving the award
- Completed with a grade of B or better at least 24 hours of Undergraduate course work and have an Undergraduate GPA in excess of 3.0 (out of 4.00).
- Displayed accomplishments in the 3 following areas:
 - Technical Merit and Research Capability
 - Academic Performance
 - Leadership

Angel Mendez – University of Central Florida



“He is leading a team of undergraduate students to develop a road safety mobile app “City-Report.” The app is a crowdsourcing peer to peer Android app that encourages city residents to report safety issues and inconveniences with public infrastructures. Once developed, the underlying peer to peer functionality will be used during the testing for the SAFER-SIM project (Project Title: Shared Connectivity for Safer Shared Space Facilities: Improving mobility for non-motorized and vulnerable Road-Users). Since the beginning of his research in my lab, I have found Mr. Mendez, a very hard-working young researcher with outstanding abilities in critical thinking and problem-solving. I also would like to highlight Mr. Mendez’s communication abilities and desirable inter-personal skills while collaborating with his colleagues on the project. I also find him both well-liked and respected by his peers. I reiterate my support for Mr. Mendez and highly recommend him without reservation for the Safer-Sim Excellence award.”

Sarah Widrow – University of Massachusetts-Amherst



“Ms. Widrow is a Junior in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a hard-working and dedicated researcher with a natural intuition and grasp of research. She has been an invaluable asset for our group’s research, especially in two recent projects funded by SAFER-SIM. The first project was the “Wizard of Oz” project in which she was instrumental in recruiting, data collection, preparing the data for analyses, and manuscript preparation. The second project was the “Mental Models and ADAS” project that was jointly funded by SAFER-SIM and the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. In this project Ms. Widrow was involved in critical tasks examining ADAS components to characterize their functionality, capabilities, and their limitations. Although these tasks were more suited for senior graduate students, Ms. Widrow was able to complete them admirably. Apart from her contributions towards the stated research goals of the project, Ms. Widrow has displayed initiative in pushing the bounds of the research. She is active in a number of important and relevant student organizations including the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineer’s (IISE) Student Chapter where she is on the executive board. She has also been selected to be a member of the Dean’s Undergraduate Advisory Group and is a member of the UMass Engineering Student-Faculty Mindfulness in Curriculum Committee. She is active in volunteering and has served in K-12 outreach days and ‘destination days’ for the College of Engineering.”