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## Photonics Society of Chinese Heritage Announces Winners of the 2026 Tingye Li Memorial Scholarship Award



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**OFC, March 17, 2026** — The Photonics Society of Chinese Heritage (PSC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering professional exchange among scientists and engineers of Chinese heritage in the field of photonics, is proud to announce the two winners and eight finalists of the **2026 Tingye Li Memorial Scholarship Award**.

### 2026 Scholarship Winners

After an extensive review of a record-breaking pool of high-caliber applicants, the PSC has selected two winners for the scholarship award:



**Mr. Zhican Zhou** (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), nominated by Prof. Yating Wan, for his outstanding contributions to integrated photonic computing and hardware security.



**Ms. Xuelin Zhang** (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), nominated by Prof. Jiangbing Du and Prof. Zuyuan He, for her breakthrough research in integrated photonics and waveguide superlattices.

Each winner will be presented with an award trophy and a \$3,500 scholarship during the PSC Annual Workshop at OFC on the evening of March 18.

### 2026 Scholarship Finalists (in alphabetical order)

- **Alireza Geravand** (Universite Laval), nominated by Prof. Wei Shi
- **Gaofei Wang** (Fudan University), nominated by Prof. Zengguang Cheng
- **Mingyu Zhu** (Zhejiang University), nominated by Prof. Daoxin Dai
- **Yang Li** (Nankai University), nominated by Prof. Feng Song
- **Yimeng Wang** (Peking University), nominated by Prof. Xingjun Wang and Haowen Shu
- **Yiran Guan** (University of Ottawa), nominated by Prof. Jianping Yao
- **Yuxiang Duan** (University of Southern California), nominated by Prof. Alan Willner
- **Zhi Cheng** (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), nominated by Prof. Changyuan Yu

The eight finalists will receive digital certificates in recognition of their exceptional academic achievements.

### Selection Process & Committee

Candidates were evaluated by the Scholarship Review Committee based on a rigorous set of criteria: Academic Achievement (70%) and Community Service (30%). The 2026 Committee comprises a distinguished panel of industry leaders and academic icons, including: Prof. Vincent Chan (MIT), Prof. Lionel Kimerling (MIT), Prof. Alan Willner (USC), and Dr. Xiang Zhou (Google), as well as PSC current and past presidents Mr. Marcus Yang, Dr. Andy Sun, Dr. Steve Yao, and Mr. Kevin Zhang (Chair).

### Special Recognition



The Committee is also honored to issue a special recognition to one of the applicants, **Mr. Yonglin Huang** of the University of Central Florida, for his inspiring lifelong pursuit of excellence. Mr. Huang's career includes the invention of popular designs of optical circulators and polarization beam combiners. He also maintained a close relationship with Dr. Tingye Li during his early entrepreneurial years. Mr. Huang set an inspiring example by embarking on his PhD at the age of 60, following a successful industrial

career.

### Leadership Reflections

Prof. Lionel Kimerling of MIT noted after reviewing the 10 finalists: "It was a real pleasure to review these outstanding students. They all measure at the top of their peers across the globe."

Marcus Yang, President of PSC, stated: "We are delighted to celebrate this year's winners and finalists—young pioneers who are redefining the landscape of optical science. By supporting these innovators, we carry forward Dr. Li's lifelong mission to push the frontiers of what is possible in photonics. Their work stands as a living tribute to his legacy, ensuring his passion for discovery continues to inspire the next generation of scientific leaders."

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## **About the PSC Tingye Li Memorial Scholarship Award**

Established in late 2019, the Tingye Li Memorial Scholarship Award is presented annually to honor the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Tingye Li to the field of photonics, and to emulate his selfless dedication to mentoring young scientists and his exemplary service to the photonics community. The award is made possible by our generous sponsors.

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