The University of Toledo Wins ASCE/EWB Sustainable Development Award at EPA P3 Competition.

Deep in the interior of southern Honduras lies the tiny village of La Barranca, where residents are forced to obtain their water either from a local farmer who gives priority to cattle or from shallow wells filled indirectly from the nearby Choluteca River.

In either case, the water poses a serious health risk. After a preliminary trip to the village last August, a team of Engineers Without Boarders – USA Students from The University of Toledo, together with Clifford Gordon, who served as a technical adviser, proposed a riverbank filtration system coupled with chlorine disinfection as an inexpensive and sustainable water treatment solution for the village. The riverbank segment would allow the water to be naturally filtered through the ground, and the disinfection segment would ensure that as many contaminants as possible were eliminated.