



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science



2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP:



JOHN KILLEFER

South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Obtaining a college education has one of the greatest impacts and returns on investment when we look at the career and life opportunities of those entering the job market. The cost of higher education has increased over the years and, in many cases, may be falling outside the reach of many students and their families. One of the pillars of our great land-grant university system, and a major area of focus at SDSU, is to provide access to a premier college education to as many students as possible. The availability of a scholarship to a deserving student may be the deciding factor determining whether a student gains access to the wonderful resources found at SDSU, or if this extremely valuable opportunity to better their lives and society is missed because the cost of education was outside of their reach.

Scholarships play an increasingly important role for our students and we are so fortunate to have generous donors that have made scholarships within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) and the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science possible. In the current school year, 42.4% of CAFES students are recipients of a scholarship with an average of \$1,478 awarded per student. In the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, over half of the students (55.5%) receive scholarships with an average of \$1,412 awarded per student.

The generosity of donors supporting scholarships for our students makes a tremendous impact on their lives, the opportunities they are provided and ensures that we are preparing the future leaders of the agriculture industry. We are so very thankful for the many generous supporters that open doors, and change the lives of our students.



DAVID WRIGHT

Head of the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science

Your gift to the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science provides students the foundation to grow, lead, transform, and succeed in an ever-changing global agricultural environment. EVERY GIFT MATTERS to support our students and to support our department's mission!

Your gift directly supports our students' education. In a single day, the 2019 One Day for State event raised \$2,000 for undergraduate scholarships in agronomy, precision agriculture, and horticulture that made a difference in student lives this year. The 2020 One Day for STATE event raised \$4,555 for additional scholarships. THANK YOU!

Giving back to support SDSU is critical to the continued success of your alma mater. The collective generosity of SDSU alumni, donors, and friends has a transformational impact on our department. Every gift has the power to impact lives. Past gifts not only supported undergraduate scholarships, but also student research projects and travel for student clubs to attend regional and national competitions. Your support—in whatever amount—demonstrates your vision that every student deserves the chance to be a Jackrabbit! Your support makes SDSU the best experience it can be by reducing the cost of our students' education.

Making gifts to support the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science also demonstrates the pride you have for SDSU and ensures that current students have opportunities like you had when you were a student. If you are a current or past donor, THANK YOU! If you are contemplating making a gift, please do so, your gift matters.

FROM OUR STUDENTS:



"Words cannot express how grateful I am to have been chosen as a recipient of a scholarship. I value my education, and I am humbled by our donors' generosity. This scholarship has made it possible to continue my education. I will continue to strive for success at South Dakota State University. Thank you again for your support."

- Abigail Ryan

"I was very excited to learn that I was selected as the recipient of a scholarship. Because of my scholarship, I am able to focus more on my studies and reduce the number of hours I work per week. Thank you again for your investment in students like myself and in our education. Continuing my studies wouldn't be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like yourself. Thank you for making this possible!"

- Dalton Howe



"Thank you to those who have supported me in my college career and education thus far. Your generous donations allow me to be where I am today, and I am eternally grateful. I am, like many other people in the community, passionate about the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, and have great expectations for myself and my fellow peers. Your hope for the community and our department is an inspiration to all students who are working towards advancing our potential and future education. Once again, I would like to thank you for the support that you have given us this year and hopefully for years to come."

- Gabrielle Thooft



"During my time at SDSU, I have been fortunate enough to receive many different scholarships. Scholarships are a beneficial way to reward students for their work inside and outside of the classroom. As a recipient of these scholarships, I have been able to participate in many activities such as going on club trips and networking with industry professionals. These experiences have better prepared me to enter the industry this spring by helping to connect class work with real life scenarios."

- Ally Ringeisen



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



FROM COMBAT TO THE CLASSROOM

*Combat veteran and plant science master's student, **Wyatt Brown**, seeks to blend his two passions for the military and horticulture to help local veterans transition back into society.*

Growing up in rural Wakefield, Nebraska, Wyatt Brown was surrounded by conventional agriculture. As a teen, he worked several jobs in the industry including walking and spraying bean fields and working at a local cattle feed yard, large-scale poultry farm and an egg production operation.

In December 2000, Brown enlisted in the Nebraska Army National

Guard. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Basic Training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was just three weeks into his training when 9/11 occurred. After four years of enlisted service, he transferred from Wayne State College in Nebraska and enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of South Dakota where he studied military science and recreation management. He later commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, graduated from USD in 2006 and returned to Fort Sill to attend the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course.

Brown went on to serve as a fire support officer with the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and as a platoon leader with the 1-320th Field Artillery Regiment. He was then deployed to Al Haswah and Baghdad City in Iraq from 2007-2008, and upon his return, completed the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course and immediately reported to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Brown was then deployed two more times, serving his second deployment in southern Iraq from 2010-2011, and his third and final deployment in Shah Joy, Afghanistan in 2012.

"After serving three deployments and seven years of active duty military service, I made the difficult decision to leave the military," said Brown. "The Army was my life and I loved it. However, I didn't want my children growing up without a father or my wife without her husband."

Once Brown was out of the military, he struggled to decide how and where to begin his career.

"It was clear to me that I would probably never find a career as fulfilling as the military," said Brown. "Then one day while I was searching for other options, I found a program online called Veterans to Farmers."

Veterans to Farmers (VTF) is a non-profit organization based in Denver, Colorado, that helps assist veterans to assimilate effectively, productively and permanently into private citizenry through agricultural training and education. Class participants work alongside other veterans, learning new skills and experiencing the grounding effects of the farm through training in agricultural systems, technologies and business operations for a fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle.

Brown was intrigued by the program and decided to join. While there, he learned about the many facets of growing vegetable

crops through organic farming, hydroponics and aquaponics in addition to bee keeping, canning, composting and basic botany and horticultural skills.

After completing the VTF program in 2016, Brown made the decision to return to college in the fall of 2017 and pursue an undergraduate degree in horticulture at South Dakota State University to further his knowledge, and graduated in December of 2019.

During the summer of 2019, Brown completed a horticulture internship with SDSU Extension that allowed him to refine his teaching and plant knowledge skills even further. He published articles for the iGrow Gardens Column, writing about many aspects of organic growing for both vegetable crops and lawn and landscape plants, and presented to Master Gardener programs across the state.

Throughout his time at SDSU, Brown worked at the SDSU Local Foods Education Center on campus and McCrory Gardens where he managed the sustainable vegetable garden for two summers.

While working toward his degree, Brown made a very specific goal to start a program similar to VTF in South Dakota after he graduated. He, along with a small group of veterans, have started a nonprofit organization called ReFocus. The group is working to establish an exclusive farming program in South Dakota to teach veterans in the Midwest many of the same disciplines that VTF does in Denver. ReFocus is currently working with local community and university partners to refine their ideas and garner support for the program.

Brown currently resides in Brookings with his wife, Sara, and their three children Elijah, Emily and Gabriel. After graduating in December, he began planning for ReFocus and recently started graduate school at SDSU to pursue a master's degree in plant science. Brown continues to serve his community and his country as an active volunteer with local nonprofit organizations and as a field grade officer in the Army Reserves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

As a highly decorated veteran, Brown's awards and recognitions include the Bronze Star Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, a National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal, an Army Service Ribbon, an Overseas Service Ribbon 2nd award, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, an Iraq Campaign Medal, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, a Meritorious Unit Citation, a Combat Action Badge and an Air Assault Badge.

"There are many people in the United States to thank for the prosperity that we have in our country, but two of the most important are the farmer, and the American soldier," said Brown. "I can think of no better way to honor these two professions than to unify these efforts together with veteran farmers helping to feed our communities. It's a beautiful dream!"

By Andrea Schubloom



RACHEL GEARY

*Agronomy
Elk Point, SD*

Q. What has been your favorite part about your program?

A. My favorite part about my program is all the opportunities that I have received. My program has allowed me to make connections with my professors, industry leaders, and other students. I have had the opportunity to travel across the United States visiting different industries and competing on the crops judging team. Through all these opportunities, I have grown as a student and leader.

Q. What/who inspired you to pursue your career path?

A. My great-great-grandparents came to South Dakota over 100 years ago because they saw the opportunity agriculture had in the area. Because of the opportunities agriculture gave my relatives, it has allowed me to be the fifth generation to grow up on the farm. I have been active on the family farm since I was tall enough to reach the tractor clutch. My parents have also shared their passion for agriculture with me, especially my Dad. He has shown my siblings and I what hard-work and dedication is and how these two things can help you accomplish your goals.

Q. What clubs/organizations/community service have you been involved with on campus?

A. I have been involved in the Agronomy and Conservation Club, Alpha Zeta, Jacks Give Back Club and the Collegiate Crops Judging Team. In the Brookings community, I have been involved with the Harvest Table, Brookings Youth Mentoring Group and helped to collect canned goods for the Brookings Food Pantry.

Q. How have scholarships impacted your education?

A. They've helped lift the financial burden that comes with college. The scholarships I have received have allowed me to focus more on my studies and work less hours during the school year. I am forever grateful for the opportunities SDSU has provided me, and the scholarships provided by the generous donors have helped make these opportunities possible for me and others.

Q. What advice do you have for incoming students as they begin their journey to pursue a degree?

A. Use your resources! Professors, advisors, and your classmates are all resources that can help you be successful throughout your time here at SDSU. Ask your professors questions – they are here to help you and want to see you be successful. Your advisor is there to help you through your program and help you find an internship or job, so be sure to share with them your goals and what you want to get out of your time here at SDSU. Get to know the person(s) you sit next to in class – they might understand something better than you and may be able to help you with the class. It also allows you to branch out from the students in your residence hall.

Q. What do you feel is the biggest challenge we have in modern-day agriculture and how do you think we can evolve and work together as an industry to conquer that challenge?

A. I think the biggest challenge in modern-day agriculture is how there are so many unknowns that come with the business. Farming is a business, and it is a struggle for many farmers to be successful today.

More and more family farms are being sold and people are moving away from rural areas, but farmers are still expected to meet and exceed the need for food by the population. As well as meeting the demand of food, farmers must be sure the food being provided meets the consumers expectations of quality. Agriculture is a tough business to be in.

I think by working together we can get through this challenge. The industry requires a voice with the state and national government to help pass farm policies that create fair prices and other programs to help the industry. The ag industry could also use more programs to help beginning farmers. There is a demand for loans from well-established farmers and beginner farmers, but few receive the loans. As an industry I think it is important to work together to make change happen. We need to trust each other and dedicate ourselves to advocate for the industry we all love so much. I also think educating farmers and consumers of the impact agriculture has on the world would be beneficial. Farmers know the need of consumers, but I don't think consumers understand what farmers need from them. Many farmers dream of passing their livelihood down to future generations. I, too, want to be able to share my family's farm for generations to come. I'm ready to conquer the challenges agriculture faces. Are you?

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



RILEY ANDERSON

*Agronomy
Sioux Falls, SD*

**Richard L. Elliott Scholarship
in Plant Science**



RYAN BLOMGREN

*Agronomy
Butterfield, MN*

**Raymond C. and Maxine Kinch
Scholarship in Plant Science**



NICOLE BAUMANN

*Agronomy
Winsted, MN*

**Donald Thompson Memorial
Scholarship in Agronomy**

John J. Denholm Scholarship



DEREK BOEKELHEIDE

*Agronomy
Northville, SD*

**Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial
Scholarship in Agronomy**



BAILEY BIEGLER

*Conservation Planning & Park Management
Aberdeen, SD*

**Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation
Scholarship and Research Award**



HALEY BORMAN

*Agronomy
Rock Rapids, IA*

**James and Barbara Jessen
Scholarship in Plant Science**

**Rodney N. Richardson Endowed
Scholarship in Plant Science**





CATHERINE DAUGHERTY

*Agronomy
Lennox, SD*

George Semeniuk Scholarship in Plant Science
**Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann Scholarship
in Plant Science**



WILLOW DEAN

*Agronomy
Monticello, MN*

Burton L. Brage Scholarship
**Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation Scholarship and
Research Award**
**South Dakota Crop Improvement Association
Scholarship**



TREVOR DOFFIN

*Horticulture
Stanton, NE*

**Dean & Dorothy Martin Family Scholarship for
Excellence in Horticulture**
Harry B. Domke Memorial Scholarship in Horticulture
**Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial Scholarship in Horticulture
in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee**



KELLEN ERDAHL

*Agronomy
Morris, MN*

**Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial Scholar-
ship in Agronomy**



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CADE FORTUNA

*Agronomy
Pickstown, SD*

D. Boyd Shank Scholarship in Plant Science

Leonard L. Ladd Memorial Scholarship in Plant Science



JUSTIN GOODROAD

*Agronomy
Canton, SD*

**Thomas & Jacqueline Schumacher
Soil Science Research End**



TREVOR FROST

*Agronomy
Ashton, SD*

**Leon & Joyce Wrage Family
Scholarship in Plant Science**



BROOKE HOFFBECK

*Agronomy, Agricultural Business
Morgan, MN*

**Lawrence O. Fine Scholarship in
Agronomy**



RACHEL GEARY

*Agronomy
Elk Point, SD*

**Raymond C. and Maxine Kinch Scholarship
in Plant Science**

**Don Moore Award for Undergraduate
Research in Plant Science**



DALTON HOWE

*Agronomy
Redfield, SD*

**South Dakota Crop Improvement
Association Scholarship**



REGAN JACOBY

*Horticulture
Vesta, MN*

**Clarence, Ethel and Henry Dybvig
Memorial Scholarship in Horticulture**



HALI KOISTINEN

*Horticulture, Landscape Architecture
Marshall, MN*

**Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial
Scholarship in Horticulture in
Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee**



AMELEA JONES

*Horticulture
Nevada, IA*

**Shirley Peebler Luther Freshman
Scholarship in Horticulture**



CLAYTON KOPPATSCHKEK

*Agronomy
Toronto, SD*

One Day for STATE Scholarship



JACOB KOCH

*Horticulture
Auburn, NE*

**F. David and Claus Johnson
Scholarship in Horticulture**



DANTE KOUPAL

*Agronomy
Kearney, NE*

**Paul and Evelyn Carson Scholarship in
Plant Science**



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



TYLER LEBEDA

*Agronomy
Presho, SD*

**Leonard Freiwald Family Scholarship in Plant Science
South Dakota Wheat Commission Scholarship**



AARON LINKE

*Agronomy, Animal Science
Woonsocket, SD*

James and Melody Mielke Scholarship in Agronomy



AUSTEN MARUDAS

*Horticulture
Milaca, MN*

**Keith and Beverly Keltgen Freshman
Scholarship in Plant Science**



MIGUEL MENA

*Agronomy, Spanish
Harlan, IA*

**Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation
Scholarship and Research Award**





CLAYTON MENNING

*Agronomy
Corsica, SD*

**Ervin and Lucille Boyd Family
Scholarship**

**Rodney N. Richardson Endowed
Scholarship in Plant Science**



KAYLA O'CONNOR

*Agronomy
Jackson, MN*

**South Dakota Crop Improvement
Association Scholarship**



LUCAS MORRISON

*Precision Agriculture
Albert Lea, MN*

**Dr. Clatus M. Nagel Memorial Endowment
for Scholarships in Plant Science**



TREY OWENS

*Horticulture
Brookings, SD*

**Myron E. and Bernadine L.
Enevoldsen Scholarship**



COLE NAFZIGER

*Conservation Planning & Park Management
Gettysburg, SD*

**James D. Curry Memorial Scholarship
Soil Scientists Memorial Scholarship**



NICOLAS PASSONE

*Agronomy, Precision Agriculture
Gaillan-en-Medoc, France*

**E.H. Sexauer Scholarship in Plant Science
One Day for STATE Scholarship
Thomas & Jacqueline Schumacher Soil
Science Research**

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ALLY RINGEISEN
Agronomy, Precision Agriculture
Sherburn, MN

**Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial
Scholarship in Agronomy**



BLAINE ROTHACKER
Agronomy
Redfield, SD

Plant Science Student Travel Scholarship



ABIGAIL RYAN
Agronomy, Data Science
Aberdeen, SD

**South Dakota Crop Improvement
Association Scholarship**



TREY SCHMIDT
Agronomy
Watertown, SD

**Raymond A. Moore Scholarship in
Plant Science**



JARED SIMONS
Agronomy
Union Center, SD

**South Dakota Wheat Commission
Scholarship**



MATTHEW SPERRY
Agronomy, Precision Agriculture
Bath, SD

Tom and Michele Olsen Scholarship



KAYCEE SZYMANSKI
Rangeland Ecology & Management
Rapid City, SD

**Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation
Scholarship and Research Award**



NICHOLAS STOLE
Agronomy
Roland, IA

**Wilmer L. and Adele Davis Scholarship
in Plant Science**



GABRIELLE THOOFT
Horticulture
Tyler, MN

**Adams Homestead Ladies Gardening
Scholarship in Horticulture**

**Cecil and Grace Sanderson Family
Endowed Scholarship Fund in
Horticulture**

**Minnehaha Master Gardeners
Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Graper**

**Richard L. Elliott Scholarship in Plant
Science**

**Rodney N. Richardson Endowed
Scholarship in Plant Science**



JUDAH SWIFT
Agronomy
Burke, SD

**James and Joan Likness Scholarship
in Agronomy**



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



JENNIFER WEBER

Horticulture

Odessa, MN

Rapid City Garden Club Scholarship



AUBREY WEISHAAR

Agronomy

Lemmon, SD

**Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann Scholarship
in Plant Science**

**Ralph and Wanda Hansmeier Scholarship in Plant
Science**



CLARENCE WINTER

Agronomy

Martin, SD

**Richard and Norman and Ellen Kuecker
Scholarship in Plant Science**

South Dakota Wheat Commission Scholarship

Leon Wood Scholarship



RILEY ZIMMERMAN

Agronomy

Yankton, SD

**Fred & Wilma Westin Scholarship in Plant
Science**



TYLER ZUSCHLAG

Mathematics, Data Science

Rapid City, SD

**Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation
Scholarship and Research Award**





Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!
**Thank you for making scholarships available to our students and
for investing in the future professionals of our industry.**

*- David Wright, Head of the Department of Agronomy,
Horticulture and Plant Science*





SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science

Berg Agricultural Hall 244
Box 2207A
Brookings, SD 57007



One day for **STATE** 

**AGRONOMY, HORTICULTURE AND
PLANT SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**
2020 RESULTS

21
DONORS

\$4,555
RAISED

One Day for STATE is a 24-hour challenge to all Jackrabbits to join together to celebrate SDSU and the impact that can be made through private gifts.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ONE DAY FOR STATE AT WWW.SDSTATEFOUNDATION.ORG/ODFS