

The Environmentally, Socially and Economically Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Program

Announcing the 2017 Environmentally, Socially, and Economically Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship

for students entering their Junior or higher
collegiate agriculture or forestry studies
in the fall of 2017

Scholarship award will be \$5,000 to one individual and is to be used for tuition, books, testing or research related fees associated with the recipient's enrollment at their institution of higher learning. A scholarship applicant/recipient may continue to apply in following years.

This is a competitive scholarship. It will be awarded on an objective, nondiscriminatory basis using the information submitted in accordance with the enclosed instructions. A committee of 3 to 5 degreed professionals will evaluate the candidates and make a recommendation to the Founding Contributors and to the Rochester Area Foundation.

The Scholarship Fund and the Rochester Area Foundation reserve the right to waive and/or supplement the selection criteria as provided herein.

Awards will be made payable to both the applicant and the University/College. Payments will be split into semester one and semester two. Graduate students may receive the payments differently and for different needs to satisfy their specific situations.

Application deadline is April 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified by June 1. Checks will be mailed in time to meet enrollment deadlines posted at the university/college.

Scholarships will not be offered to the following individuals:

- o Direct family members of the Founding Contributors Knudsen, Flesche, Geppert families
- o Rochester Area Foundation employees, trustees or family members of Rochester Area Foundation employees or trustees
- o Scholarship committee members or direct family members of the scholarship committee.

Additional material about the Scholarship Fund can be found on our website:

<http://protectourresources.org/>

Background

"Who will feed and house future generations?" The answer to this question is much larger than this scholarship program, but one thing is for certain, it will take professionals educated and trained in sustainable agriculture (food production) and forestry (wood production). The founders are deeply concerned about what happens to our waters, soils, forests, communities, food qualities, and people.

The scholarship fund seeks to find the next generation of agricultural and forestry professionals who will be learning how to manage our environment on a completely sustainable basis (defined below), provide food and shelter for people and in the process protect our precious natural resources for our children and those yet to come. The scholarship program is meant to be a core program supported by educational and informational activities in SE Minnesota such as a website, newsletters, conference(s), additional fund raising activities, presentations, etc.

The mission of this educational scholarship fund is to provide financial aid to individuals committed to sustainability in the fields of agriculture and forestry, who also have demonstrated leadership and communication skills. The Fund serves individuals growing up in SE Minnesota, is endowed and will operate in perpetuity.

The Vision of this Scholarship Fund is to make everything we do as pertains to water, soils, the environment, agriculture, forestry, local producers and communities be sustainable for us now and for future generations.

The term *sustainable* agriculture and forestry means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

1. satisfy human food, fiber and forest product needs;
2. enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural and forestry economies depend;
3. make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm and forestry resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
4. sustain the economic viability of farm, forests and related operations;
5. ensure a healthy food supply, and
6. enhance the quality of life for our society as a whole.



Eligibility criteria

The successful applicant will be from the greater Rochester area which includes the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona. This means they lived in this area prior to commencing their college studies.

Undergraduate students:

1. The student must be entering Junior or Senior year bachelor's studies in agriculture and/or forestry by August of the calendar year in which scholarship will commence.
2. The student must be enrolled at one of the higher education not-for-profit institutions in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, or North Dakota.
3. The advising professor must submit a letter of recommendation.
4. Priority will be given to students active in agriculture/forestry outside of school and who are demonstrating leadership and communication skills.

Graduate students must in addition to the above:

1. Be eligible to begin the first or second year of a Master's degree program or pursue doctoral studies,
2. Submit a written statement from the applicant's academic advisor, supervisor, or the institution attesting that the applicant is a student or faculty member in good standing with the institution and the relevant department.

Target recipients: The successful candidate will:

- ★ have a demonstrated strong interest in and commitment to completely sustainable (as defined above) agricultural and/or forestry practices,
- ★ be committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources and related economic and social conditions,
- ★ have strong communication skills, and
- ★ possess leadership characteristics.

Sustainability embraces many disciplines, methodologies, and institutional practices. Therefore scholarship recipients are those who seek to be exposed to skill and knowledge building about changing environments and human health; energy, climate, and built environments; the power of culture and society; and ethics, economics, and public policy.

Scholarship recipients will be expected to participate in at least one public forum as arranged by the Rochester Area Foundation and/or the Scholarship Founding Contributors. Participation will include a sharing of what is learned and allow the publishing of name, photo and educational activities in newsletters, websites and news releases.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail.

Applicants are invited to contact the Founding Contributors (e-Mail to dag@dagknudsen.com) or the Rochester Area Foundation (e-mail to Jane Angelone at jane@rochesterarea.org) for clarifications or questions.

The Application

present the following material in the order listed:

Contact information including mailing address, email, and telephone number where applicant can be reached during and outside the school year.

Indicate the class to be attended (Junior, senior, graduate and level) at which school.

Present the academic cumulative GPA.

Provide a letter of recommendation from the Advising Professor.

Provide other letters of reference as deemed appropriate.

Present information about:

1. Their coursework organized by area (for ex.: soils sciences related; forestry related; environmental science related etc.)
2. Their agricultural/forestry related work experience (indicate whether paid or unpaid)
3. Other work experience
4. Research conducted
5. Extracurricular activities, campus engagements etc.
6. Volunteer work
7. Certifications/honors/awards received
8. Other skills deemed applicable such as talents for education/instruction, outreach etc.
9. Organizational memberships and positions held
10. Additional topics/information that you feel is appropriate.
11. One essay (400 words max. on a separate page) describing what your educational focus is as pertains to sustainable (as defined earlier) agriculture or forestry. Identify potential future course work areas.
12. One essay (400 words max. on a separate page) where you might see yourself in the future. Whether research, consulting, production, marketing, policy development, management, etc. Please provide an explanation for your focus and why you think it is right for you.

The complete application must be postmarked between April 1, and April 15, 2017 and mailed to:

Ms. Jane Angelone, Grant Administrator
Attention Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry
Scholarship Fund
Rochester Area Foundation
12 Elton Hills Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901
E-mail: jane@rochesterarea.org
Phone: 507-424-2417