

AFA Offers Scholarships to Agriculture Students

Kansas City, Mo. – Dec. 13, 2012 – Investing in personal and professional development is vital to the success of today's college students. However, the question most likely weighing on their minds is how they are going to pay for their education. Through a unique scholarship program offered by Agriculture Future of America and its partners, students pursuing careers in agriculture gain access to exciting leader training opportunities and receive help paying for their college education.

AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships have two components. The leader component sponsors the student's entrance into AFA's leader development program, including registration to the AFA Leaders Conference, a professional and personal development experience for elite agriculture students across the nation. The academic component provides financial support for student tuition and fees. These scholarships are available to students across the county. Listed below are scholarships currently available through AFA and its partner organizations.

[AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarship](#)

AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships seek to identify young leaders in the agriculture and food industry to enter AFA leader development programming and receive an academic scholarship the second semester of their freshman year. While most of these opportunities are targeted toward college freshmen, a few scholarships in this program also include current college students. These AFA scholarships, with the exception of the BOTAR scholarship, are a \$2,600 award — \$1,000 leader development award to attend the AFA Leaders Conference and a \$1,600 academic scholarship upon successful attendance. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of career vision and goal, leader and community involvement, and financial need. Applications are due March 15, 2013. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

Other contributors or designations to the National Leader and Academic Scholarship program are:

- [Water Street Solutions](#) provides five AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students from the following states: **Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio**. These students are identified through the general AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship application. **High school seniors, as well as current college students**, are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Three letters of recommendation are required for this scholarship.
- [DFA Cares Foundation](#) provides two AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students from throughout the country who express an interest in a career in the dairy industry. **Incoming freshmen and current college students are encouraged to apply.**
- The **Stanley H. Durwood Foundation** provides five AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students identified and selected by AFA. Founder of AMC Theaters and active philanthropist, Mr. Durwood believed in access to education and his trust is providing for these five scholarships to deserving AFA delegates.
- The [Belles of the American Royal \(BOTAR\) Organization](#) provides one AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship to a **female, Midwest agriculture student with a special interest in agriculture education**. This scholarship provides a \$3,200 academic tuition/fees scholarship, \$1,000 registration fee for AFA Leaders Conference and a \$200 travel stipend for the student to attend the BOTAR General Membership Meeting in January of her scholarship year.

[William J. Collins Scholarship](#)

The William J. Collins scholarship was established to honor Mr. Collins upon his retirement from AgriBank, recognizing his many years of service. This scholarship is awarded to children of AgriBank district employees (Board of Directors excluded) who are graduating high school seniors planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in an agriculture-related program. Applications are due March 15. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

About AFA

AFA's mission is to create partnerships that identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women who are preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry. With student participation increasing 65 percent in the last five years, AFA leader development programs have impacted 9,000 college leaders and young professionals from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout 43 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$7.5 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit www.agfuture.org or contact Megan Karlin at Megan.Karlin@agfuture.org.

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