

Fall 2011

GFAI NEWS

{Scholarship}



A member update of GFAI's
Scholarship Program

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students interested in pursuing a career in the grain and feed industry while also bringing awareness to the many career opportunities that are available. To support these efforts, here's what we've been focusing on this year:

Raise Awareness...

and visibility by getting into classrooms and colleges to promote career opportunities in the grain and feed industry.

Get Students Hooked...

This year, the Industry Immersion Scholarship program hosted 7 students - the most ever in the program's history. The theory is we get them exposed to the industry, provide some work experiences, get them networking and get them hooked!

Communicate...

with deans, professors, advisors and careers services and other personnel who hold the key to put these opportunities in front of the students.

Where are they now....

Scholarship recipients working in the industry



"...the scholarship and industry immersion program was a big contributor to where I am today. I was able to get my feet wet and meet people in the industry and the people who hired me at Sunrise Ag... it helps tremendously on getting young people's names out that are interested in getting into the grain and feed industry."

Evan Carls is the Administrative Assistant at Sunrise Ag and has his commodity brokerage license to execute trades through MID-CO Commodities as a branch office manager.



*"For me receiving the GFAI scholarship and being able to participate in the Immersion Program was both a huge help financially while in school and an honor to be selected. I consider the time I spent at Tremont Coop a **jump start to my career** and a major factor in my decision to be a part of the grain business after graduation."*

Jacob Zosky is a Grain Merchandiser at Consolidated Grain & Barge in Hennepin, IL.



Industry Immersion Leadership Seminar



Amy Brammer with Topflight Grain talks to Industry Immersion Scholarship recipients about how to prepare for career fairs, job interviews and more.

Each year, Industry Immersion Scholarship recipients are placed to work at an elevator for 8 days over the course of the growing season. In August, the Association hosts them for 2 days while they tour locations like Springfield Grain Inspection, the IL Department of Ag and learn valuable skills in leadership, communication, resume building, preparing for a job interview and more.

What did the students say about the Leadership Seminar and overall experiences with the Industry Immersion Program?

- "A great learning experience. Both the leadership program and work experience have **exceeded my expectations.**"
- "It is one of the **best** experiences ever!"
- "I'm really enjoying it! I'm **learning so much** and have a deeper appreciation for the grain industry!"



Industry Immersion Scholarship recipients conduct mock job interviews which were recorded and given to each participant to review.

BIG thanks to:

Amy Brammer, Topflight Grain Cooperative * Glen Wallace, Springfield Grain Inspection * Stuart Selinger, IL Dept of Agriculture
Eric Gerard, GROWMARK * Shalene Reeves, MID-CO Commodities * Randy Sexton, Assumption Coop Grain Co.

1. Not every company can offer a scholarship or recruit students - so your contributions allow a **collective effort** through the Association.

2. A Leadership Seminar is held for the Industry Immersion Scholarship recipients to **network** and learn about rules, **regulations**, resume building, interview skills, dining etiquette, **media relations** and more.

3. **Expose** young professionals to **career opportunities** in the grain and feed industry

4. Help students in your **local communities** offset the cost of tuition

Your contributions make a Difference