



PRESS RELEASE

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

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Fourteen Students Receive Scholarships from GFAI

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois (GFAI) has selected 14 students from across the state to receive scholarships totaling \$38,000.

The Industry Immersion Scholarship awards \$3,500 to students who show academic excellence, exemplary community involvement and a strong interest in pursuing a career in the Illinois grain and feed industry. Recipients must have a permanent Illinois residence and be a freshman, sophomore, or junior at an accredited college or university. Students who have already completed the Industry Immersion program are also eligible to apply for a \$1,000 renewable scholarship. GFAI also offers the \$5,000 Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship, geared towards Seniors looking to work for an Illinois country grain elevator after graduating.

Winners will undergo a 3-day Industry Immersion Kick-Off Tour in August, where they will have the opportunity to visit facilities in the industry across the state, as well as participate in networking events. They will also be recognized at the Opening Session of GFAI's Annual Convention and Trade Show, held in St. Louis over President's Day Weekend 2024. The Industry Immersion program is unique to the association and pairs the student with a grain elevator, allowing the student to gain valuable work experience and understanding of operations throughout the year. The student is required to job shadow at least two days each semester and detail his/her experience in our student blog.

The following students will receive GFAI Illinois Scholarships:

Industry Immersion Scholarship: Emily Brooks (University of Illinois) of Prophetstown; Adam Loker (Southern Illinois University) of Keenes; Kate Miller (University of Illinois) of Macedonia; David Mock (University of Illinois) of Galva; Jatou Shaffer (University of Illinois) of Farmer City; and Emma Smith (Illinois State University) of Seneca.

Renewable Scholarship: Jack Beetz (Iowa State University) of Mendota; Megan Hagemann (University of Wisconsin – Platteville) of Mount Morris; Emma Kuhns (University of Illinois) of Mason; Ellie Strubhar (University of Illinois) of Bloomington; and Margaret Vaessen (University of Illinois) of Sublette.

Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship: Ashley Althaus (Iowa State University) of Sublette.

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois represents over 90% of Illinois' commercial grain storage and feed handling facilities. The scholarship program is funded directly through member donations and fundraising events each year. For more information about the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois and the scholarship program go to www.gfai.org