



PRESS RELEASE

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

Cali Dambacher, Member Services Manager

Phone: 217.787.2417

E-mail: cali@gfai.org

For Immediate Release: April 20, 2022

Fifteen Students Receive Scholarships from GF AI

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois has selected 15 students from across the state to receive scholarships totaling over \$45,000.

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. New this year is 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 the Grain and Feed Association's Annual Convention and Trade Show, held in Peoria over President's Day Weekend 2023. 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 work at least two days each semester and detail his/her experience in our student blog.

The following students will receive Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Scholarships:

Industry Immersion Scholarship: Emma Kuhns (University of Illinois), of Mason; Margaret Vaessen (University of Illinois), of Sublette; Jack Beetz (Joliet Junior College), of Mendota; Carli Wright (Black Hawk College) of Bradford; Collin White (Illinois College) of Forest City; Halie Kohl (Kankakee Community College) of Herscher; Coy Crull (Murray State University) of Grayville; Gunnar Wuebben (Black Hawk College East) of Albany; Ellie Strubhar (University of Illinois) of Bloomington; Megan Hagemann (Highland Community College) of Mount Morris; and Sophia Hortin (University of Illinois) of Fisher. Sophia was also named the Bruce Bastert Memorial Scholar.

Renewable Scholarship: Carlie Mettler (University of Illinois) of Highland; Samantha Mies (Kansas State University) of Loami; Gage Miller (University of Illinois) of Cambridge; Madison Thomas (Illinois State University) of Mt. Pulaski; Jaycie VanKampen (University of Illinois) of Thomson.

Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship: Jaycie VanKampen (University of Illinois) of Thomson.

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

- end -