

2026

»»» Annual Scholarship **RECOGNITION**



*Building Leaders.
Strengthening Careers.
Elevating the Landscape Industry.*

 NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS
FOUNDATION

Supported by
**THE KEVIN AND LORRAINE KEHOE
FOUNDATION**



STAY

»»» Connected

Staying connected strengthens your career, your confidence, and your future. Involvement in your association opens doors—expanding your network, building your skills, and creating opportunities that can shape your professional path for years to come.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER GROWTH

- › Networking & Connections – Engage with peers and industry leaders through events and meetings
- › Mentorship – Learn from experienced professionals who can guide your career and business
- › Education – Access webinars, certifications, seminars, and ongoing training
- › Industry Insights – Stay informed with standards, newsletters, magazines, and more
- › Leadership Opportunities – Influence the future of the industry by serving on committees, councils, and boards

START BUILDING YOUR NETWORK TODAY

Join one of our member communities:

- › Latino Landscape Network
- › Women in Landscape Network
- › Young Professionals Network
- › Veterans in Landscape Network

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Paul Fraynd, President
National Association of Landscape Professionals Foundation

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ben Harcey
Services Department Director
Designs By Sundown

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

President's Scholarship
Platinum Ambassador Scholarships
Ambassador Scholarships
State Association Scholarships

»»» *Thank you to our supporter*

THE KEVIN AND LORRAINE KEHOE FOUNDATION

Deeply rooted in Kevin's legacy, the Kevin and Lorraine Kehoe Foundation is especially committed to advancing education and opportunity within the Landscape and Snow Management industries, where Kevin built his groundbreaking career and forged lifelong relationships.

In addition to its focus on the landscape profession, the Foundation supports charitable initiatives in education, cancer, and veterans' causes. Its educational giving includes STEM and entrepreneurial business programs, as well as contributions to help Hillsdale College launch the Kehoe Initiative for Entrepreneurial Excellence. Kevin's own journey with cancer has shaped the Foundation's strong commitment to advancing leading cancer treatment programs. He was also honored to work with Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, dedicating both funding and time to help service members successfully transition into public-sector roles during and after their military service.

Lorraine expresses her deep appreciation for the clients who became Kevin's friends and supported his life's work. Their trust, collaboration, and friendship enriched Kevin's career and brought great joy to their lives together. In carrying forward the Foundation's mission, Lorraine remains committed to honoring Kevin's values, his gratitude for the industry he loved, and the meaningful relationships that shaped his legacy.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Paul Fraynd

Landscape Industry Certified
Sun Valley Landscaping

President-Elect

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Landscape Workshop

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Brigitte Orrick

The Davey Tree Expert Company

Anita Palmer

Sperber Landscape Companies

Britt Wood

CEO, NALP

The Foundation drives the future of the landscape and lawn care industry through public education, workforce recruitment initiatives, and scholarships that equip students with the knowledge and skills to excel.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

➤➤➤ PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP



President's Scholarship

Michael Vignone

Penn State

Michael Vignone is a senior majoring in Plant Sciences, concentrating in Horticulture. He has completed summer production internships, led Penn State's Horticulture Club as president, and participated in NCLC for the last four years. Looking forward, Michael is excited to enter the industry to begin refining his skills and meeting new people!

➤➤➤ PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Clevenger Safety Scholarship

Savannah Keller

Brigham Young University

Savannah Keller is a Plant and Landscape Systems major at BYU who is passionate about the healing power of nature. She plans to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture to build landscapes that help people feel connected to nature and each other. With a strong foundation in landscape maintenance, teaching and design, Savannah is excited to use her creativity to design a better tomorrow.

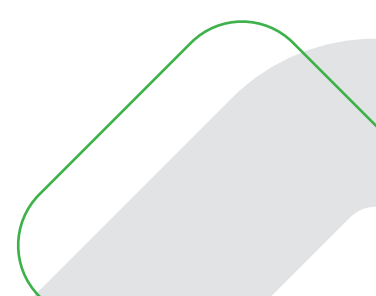


CoCal Landscape Scholarship

Ellie Miller

Colorado State University

Ellie Miller is a Landscape Design and Contracting student at Colorado State University. She is passionate about sustainable, meaningful landscapes and the way they can bring people and communities together. She hopes to create spaces that inspire others while growing as a leader within the industry and the communities she serves.





PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Damgaard Family Landscape Contracting Scholarship

Tyler Stewart
Brigham Young University

Tyler is a dedicated student at Brigham Young University pursuing a degree in Plant and Landscape Systems. He is passionate about combining his academic knowledge with practical experience to create beautiful and functional landscapes. Tyler's goal is to grow his residential landscape installation business and leave a lasting impact on the industry.



David Minor Scholarship

Meg Smolinski
University of Maryland

Meg Smolinski is currently the Outreach Coordinator for the University of Maryland's Arboretum & Botanical Gardens; Meg is an alumna of the University's Institute of Applied Agriculture. Accomplishments include the 2021 IAA's Early Career Award and in 2019, she became a Board-Certified Master Arborist. She is pursuing a Masters in Extension Education at UMD to further the educational mission of the Arboretum.



Greenleaf Services Scholarship

Brandon Pasour
North Carolina State University

Brandon Pasour is currently obtaining a bachelor's degrees in both Plant Biology and Horticultural Science. He is aiming to contribute to the improvement of production systems and ornamental growing efficiency. He has completed internships in lab settings and greenhouse/nursery settings alike. These have prepared him for future opportunities and given him the network to succeed in the green industry.



GroundSystems and The Rorie Family Scholarship

Alexandria Cerny
Cuyahoga Community College

Allie Cerny is currently pursuing her degree in Plant Science and Landscape Technology with a focus in landscape design and arboriculture. She has become passionate about many aspects of this industry but is especially passionate about designing spaces for people and the environment to enjoy. She has experience with many skills she has applied and is excited to acquire more.



PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Grover Family Scholarship
Karley Bauroth
Oregon State University

Karley Bauroth is a Naval veteran currently pursuing a Horticulture degree in Sustainable Horticulture Production. She is dedicated to implementing sustainable landscape and horticulture practices that enhance environmental health and community well-being. With a strong foundation in leadership, technical skills, and environmental conservation, Karley is committed to strengthening her community and contributing to the future of the horticulture industry.



HighGrove Partners and The McCutcheon Family Scholarship
Katie Wagner
University of Georgia

Katie Wagner is a sophomore at the University of Georgia, pursuing her Bachelor of Science with a major in Horticulture and a minor in Agribusiness Management. As Vice President of the Horticulture Club and an employee at a landscaping nursery, she has built a strong foundation in plant science, leadership, and sustainable landscape management.



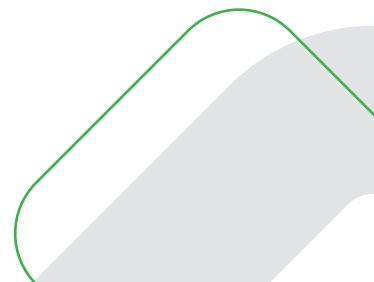
Hunter Industries Water Efficiency and Sustainability Scholarship
Jonathan Madler
North Carolina State University

Jonathan Madler is currently pursuing an associate degree in Horticulture Science at NCSU. He loves educating the next generation on the benefits of going into the landscape industry as a career, is always eager to share his knowledge with others, and has a strong passion of caring for God's creation. Upon graduation, Jonathan plans on running his own landscaping company.



Husqvarna Professional Products Scholarship
Joshua Wilson
Virginia Tech

Josh Wilson studies Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Virginia Tech. He loves plants, people and building community. He is interested in Landscape Architecture because of its ability to create livable outdoor spaces. After school, Josh is going to open a Garden Center and community space in Northern Virginia called Eden Nursery.





PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



JOHN DEERE Landscape Industry Scholarship

Callie Ross
Auburn University

Callie Ross is pursuing a degree in Landscape Horticulture at Auburn University in the Honors College. Raised on her family farm, Callie envisions a career in landscape design combining horticultural knowledge and creativity with the foundational love of nature, respect for the environment, and commitment to hard work she embodies.



Kevin Kehoe and Family Foundation Scholarship

Jordan Proctor
Brigham Young University

Jordan Proctor is currently pursuing his degree in Plant and Landscape Systems at BYU. Jordan is devoted to reconnecting people with nature through plants and water conservation. Starting with a successful small business making interior planters, Jordan looks forward to finding more ways to help bring nature back to the homes and businesses of the world.



Mike and Rebecca Bogan Scholarship

Rachel Bowers
Mississippi State University

Rachel Bowers is pursuing a Landscape Architecture degree at Mississippi State University. Passionate about thoughtful, intentional design, she strives to create dynamic, sustainable outdoor spaces. With hands-on experience in design, research, and leadership, Rachel aims to leverage her skills in design and management to enhance communities and create a lasting impact on the landscape.



Scott Byron & Co. Scholarship

Charlie Litner
Cal Poly

Charlie Litner is a Plant Sciences major at Cal Poly SLO focused on Specialty Cut Flower Production. He works across the arboretum, conservatory, and horticulture units and is helping build his family's Protea flower farm. Charlie hopes to become a leader in sustainable floriculture and California specialty crops.



PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



STIHL Inc. Landscape Industry Scholarship
Fatima Corona Cervantes
Cal Poly

Fatima Corona Cervantes is in her 3rd year at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo studying Agricultural Systems Management with a minor in Agribusiness. As a first-generation college student, she is passionate about agriculture innovation and aims to merge technology with policy to improve labor working conditions. Additionally, she aspires to grow in both the horticulture and hydroponic industry!



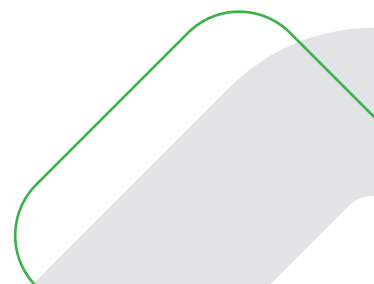
The Ivy Munion Langendorff Memorial Irrigation Scholarship
Jesse O'Brien
Cuyahoga Community College

Jesse O'Brien is currently working to receive his associate's degree in Plant Science Technology from Tri-C. He is committed to learning as much as possible about every facet of the green industry, spiritedly pursuing irrigation knowledge and skills in the hope of one day owning his own business.



The Scott Allen Memorial Scholarship
Tucker Thompson
Brigham Young University

Tucker Thompson is a senior in the Plant and Landscape Systems degree at Brigham Young University. He is motivated to design and manage spaces that drive connection among people and to provide the opportunity to have joy-filled experiences. Tucker is excited to continue using his love of event planning, landscape design, and business to help others in the green industry.





PLATINUM AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



The TruGreen Environmental Stewardship Scholarship

Larisa Draaisma
Michigan State University

Larisa Draaisma is completing her final year at Michigan State University in Horticulture Science and Agribusiness Management. With her experience in both greenhouse production and lab diagnostics, Larisa is committed to the niche of molecular sciences used in diagnostics and breeding to further the ornamental plants industry.



Toro/Exmark Scholarship

Sophie Rodriguez
Cal Poly

Sophie is a Senior at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a double major in Plant Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. She is devoted to studying pests and managing them in cropping systems and the landscape. Her ultimate goal is to earn a Ph.D. in entomology or a related field, with a focus on tree insect pests.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



ABM Landscape & Turf Services Scholarship
Johnson DeHuff
Mississippi State University

Johnson DeHuff is currently pursuing his degree in Landscape Contracting and Management and in Landscape Architecture. He strives to promote community interaction and ecological flourishing by incorporating native plants into every landscape. Through internships and part-time work, Johnson eagerly applies his passion and knowledge for the benefit of all.



Akerman Family Scholarship
Grace Siegel
University of Missouri

Grace Siegel is currently finishing her degree in Plant Sciences with an emphasis in Horticulture and Design. She plans to become a landscape designer after graduation. Through her internships and jobs at a design build company, she has found her passion in working outside and seeing a project come together. She can't wait to start her career in the landscape industry!



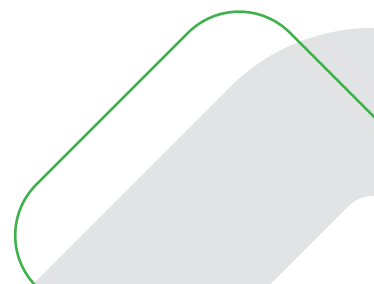
Bellantoni Landscape - The Art & Science Scholarship
Nathan Tucker
School of Professional Horticulture at New York Botanical Gardens

Nathan Tucker is pursuing a horticulture degree at the School of Professional Horticulture at New York Botanical Garden with an emphasis on Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design. He has a background of leadership and creativity of ten years as a freelance photographer. Nathan is passionate about edible ornamentals and community oriented public spaces.



Bill and Mary Murdy Scholarship
Adriana Potts
North Dakota State University

Adriana Potts studies Landscape Architecture at North Dakota State University. Inspired by sustainability and community design, she's passionate about creating spaces that connect people and nature. Her background in tree care and horticulture fuels her goal to promote resilient, vibrant landscapes through thoughtful design.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Bruce and Gail Wilson Family Scholarship

Holland Allebes Anderson
Brigham Young University

Holland Allebes Anderson is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree in Plant and Landscape Systems and later plans to complete her master's in landscape architecture. Working on an urban farm and studying landscapes abroad in Europe has excited her about the beautiful landscapes and edible parks she hopes to design in the future.



Chapel Valley Landscape Co. - The Reeve Family Scholarship

Alana Wood
Kansas State University

Alana Wood is currently pursuing her degree in Horticulture Production. She is passionate about growing quality plants from start to finish knowing how plants bring joy to people's lives. With a strong background in agriculture and greenhouse work, Alana is excited to contribute her skills to the field of horticulture production and management.



Charles Vander Kooi Memorial Scholarship

William Reynolds
Colorado State University

William Reynolds is pursuing his degree in Environmental Horticulture, with a concentration in Landscape Design and Contracting. Driven by a passion for the outdoors, he plans to start his own landscape company, bringing creativity and care to every project. He is committed to sharing his values by creating spaces that reflect both nature's beauty and his dedication to quality, and a lasting impact.



Collinsworth Family Scholarship

Helena Pappas-Brunelle
College of DuPage

Helena Pappas-Brunelle is pursuing dual degrees in Horticulture and Hospitality & Tourism Management, driven by a passion for sustainable floral design and horticultural therapy. She creates therapeutic, nature-based environments that support wellness and human connection. By blending eco-friendly practices with permaculture principles, Helena designs holistic landscapes and floral experiences that nurture both people and the planet.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Cynthia L. Peterson Gals in Green Scholarship
Elizabeth Corrie
University of Missouri

Elizabeth Corrie is attending the University of Missouri to obtain a degree in Plant Science and certificates in Landscape Design and Floral Artistry. She has a lifelong background in the horticulture industry that has created her strong passion for the field. She is excited to begin her career by returning to her family's landscape design company after graduation.



Davey Commercial Landscape Services Scholarship
Annie Trebelhorn
Colorado State University

Annie Trebelhorn traded comfort for a chance to follow her calling in Landscape Design. In her thirties, she uprooted her life to pursue a degree, driven by a love of learning, curiosity and a passion for creating spaces where people feel connected – to nature, to one another, and to themselves.



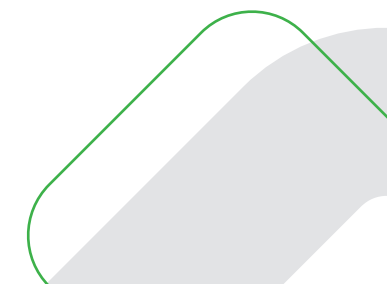
**David & Pam Snodgrass,
Dennis' Seven Dees Landscaping, Inc. Scholarship**
Sadie Duffy
Oregon State University

Sadie Duffy is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree in Horticulture with a focus in Ecological Management of turf, landscape, and urban horticulture. After completing her undergrad, she will move onto graduate school. She has a small sustainability focused landscaping business of her own and will continue that through grad school until she graduates and can focus on that entirely.



**David J. Frank Landscape Contracting Career
Builder Scholarship**
Nathan Hawks
Michigan State University

Nathan Hawks studies Landscape and Nursery Management and Agribusiness at Michigan State, concurrently growing the landscape business he began at twelve years old. As President of the MSU Student Horticulture Association and a top three NCLC competitor, he pairs leadership with industry experience. Nathan hopes to continue to expand Hawks Lawn & Landscape and become a leader in the green industry.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Debra Holder and Family Scholarship

Kaitlyn Gridley
Utah State University

Kaitlyn Gridley is currently pursuing a degree in Residential Landscape Design and Construction. She is passionate about creating water-wise landscape designs focused on seasonal interest and color. Her experience working as a horticulturist and peer advisor has further developed the skills required to successfully work in landscaping and communicating with people.



Designs By Sundown Scholarship

Raeya Wardle
Brigham Young University

Raeya Wardle is a 4th-year student at BYU, where she is double-majoring in Plant & Landscape Systems and Art with an emphasis in Studio Art. Raeya loves traveling the world, hand sketching, reading a good book, and caring for a large plant collection.



Doesburg Family Scholarship

Lydia Thurgood
Utah State University

Lydia Thurgood is currently pursuing her degree in Residential Landscape Design and Construction. She especially loves plant identification and learning how to create cohesive plant palettes for her projects. Working as a landscaper and with a handful of past jobs in the construction field, she is excited to continue contributing to the landscape field.



Eastern Landscape Management / The Moore Family Scholarship

Alex Cerminara
Penn State University

Alex Cerminara is currently enrolled at The Pennsylvania State University studying Landscape Contracting with a focus of design/ build. He focuses on crafting beautiful landscape designs people will love for generations. Alex is excited to drive right into the industry after graduation and see what it has in store for him.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Ed Castro Landscape Inc. Scholarship
Hannah Wade
Auburn University

Hannah Wade is a Senior at Auburn University pursuing her degree in Nursery and Greenhouse Science, with a minor in Entomology. She cares deeply about her work and her colleagues and is dedicated to inspiring that same care in others. She is passionate about education and sharing her love of horticulture.



Ed Sinnott Scholarship
Viktoriiia Rakhimova
Brigham Young University - Idaho

Viktoriiia Rakhimova is a senior at BYU-Idaho pursuing Horticulture with an emphasis in Landscape Architecture, and Floral Design. Her international educational background, volunteer service, and design experience inspire her to combine art and nature in her work. She aims to create public green spaces for people to enhance their quality of life and strengthen their connection with nature.



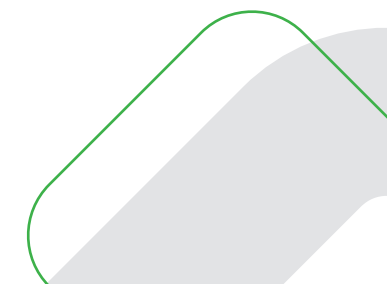
EnVision Landscape Group Scholarship
Lauren Lassus
Texas A&M University

Lauren Lassus is pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences. Her passion for plants and their interactions with people has led her to pursue a career in the Green Industry, with a strong interest in retail nursery sales. She hopes to continue to cultivate the relationship between people and plants.



Five Seasons Landscape Management Scholarship
Julia Sherwood
Columbus State Community College

Julia Sherwood is currently pursuing her degree in Landscape Design at CSCC. She loves creating designs that feel whimsical in nature and provide scope for the imagination. She has hopes to one day work for the park system and has big dreams for the future. Julia is dedicated to her work and is excited for what lies ahead.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Frank and Beverly Ross Scholarship

Abigail Merkley
Brigham Young University

Abigail Merkley is a senior studying Plant and Landscape Systems at Brigham Young University. Her goal is to become a landscape designer and has aspirations to continue to learn after graduation. She believes wholly in the healing power of nature and aspires to bring serenity and peace to individuals by creating outdoor oases in their own homes.



Gachina Landscape Management / The Gachina Family Scholarship

PJ Crocker
Cal Poly

PJ Crocker is studying Agribusiness with a minor in Fruit Science, intending to add Plant Science-Environmental Horticulture as a second major. He aspires to work in product management for plant breeders and eventually own a wholesale nursery. He is committed to serving the landscape industry as an allied industry partner to provide high-quality, high-performing plants for all to enjoy!



Gary & Thoula Mallory Scholarship

Delaney Wells
Colorado State University

Delaney Wells is pursuing her degree in Landscape Design and Contracting at Colorado State University. She is committed to expanding her industry knowledge and gaining hands-on experience. With work and internship experience in the nursery field, and design settings, she has built strong practical skills. Delaney aims to continue growing professionally and contribute through thoughtful sustainable landscape design.



Glenn Jacobsen Memorial Scholarship

Artemis Maziarski
University of Maryland

Artemis Maziarski is a Master of Landscape Architecture Student at UMD with a background in ornamental horticulture and public gardening. She is interested in combatting the urban heat island effect through urban and community forestry practices. Artemis intends to become both an ISA-certified arborist and a licensed professional landscape architect.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Gravelly Landscape Maintenance Scholarship
Lauren Buckelew
Auburn University

Lauren Buckelew is completing her bachelor's degree in Landscape Horticulture at Auburn University and plans to continue her education and obtain her Master of Science at Auburn. Lauren has experience in multiple sectors of the green industry and hopes to use that foundation to shape human experience and positively impact the environment through thoughtful landscapes in her future career.



Grunder Landscaping Co./Grow Group Scholarship
Loretta Klecker
Michigan State University

Loretta Klecker is close to finishing her degree in Horticulture with a concentration in Horticultural Science. She is considering going to graduate school to pursue a master's degree. She is looking forward to putting her skills to use in the research part of the horticulture industry to help people grow the best plants possible!



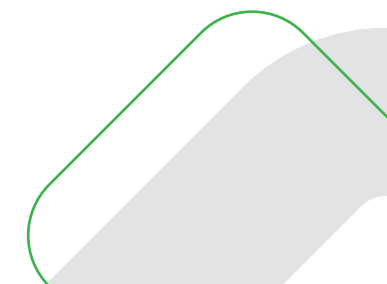
Hunt Family Scholarship
Cailyn Kerner
Michigan State University

Cailyn Kerner is currently pursuing her degree in Horticulture at Michigan State University. She has a passion for nurturing people's enjoyment for the horticultural world and with this passion she hopes to share this by designing landscapes and creating lasting memories. Cailyn is ready to go out and use her skills to give her best to the industry.



ILT Vignocchi Scholarship
Dusan Lepojevic
College of DuPage

Dusan Duke Lepojevic is pursuing his Landscape & Contracting Management degree at the College of DuPage. He works as a Conservatory & Greenhouse Supervisor, gaining extensive experience in plant production, public gardens, and sustainable landscape practices. Passionate about native plants, restoration, and innovative design, Duke is dedicated to advancing his skills and contributing to the future of landscape management.



➤➤➤ AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Include Software Scholarship

William Umberger
University of Maryland

William Umberger is currently pursuing his degree in Plant Sciences, with a focus on Urban Forestry and a minor in Entomology. He is dedicated to teaching his peers and volunteers about the various plants, native and invasive to the Mid-Atlantic. With a strong love for the outdoors, and a burning curiosity, he is eager to share his passions in Forestry.



James River Grounds Management Scholarship

Mason Maluto
Virginia Tech

Mason Maluto is currently finishing his degree in Environmental Horticulture at Virginia Tech. For the past 2 years he has dedicated himself to his education and gaining experience in Landscape Management and Installation, with a goal in educating others. With a strong foundation in his field, he is excited to get to work and begin making his mark.



Jeffrey Scott and Corine Koornhof Scholarship

Allyson Decker
Mississippi State University

Allyson Decker is a senior Landscape Architecture and Landscape Contracting/Management student at Mississippi State University. Her passion for landscape design and horticulture began while working at a plant nursery in high school, where she discovered her love for creating sustainable and functional outdoor spaces. Allyson aspires to make a lasting impact in sustainable landscape design.



Kevin Kehoe Rising Star Scholarship

Ryan Culp
Ohio State - ATI

Ryan is a horticulture student and young business owner who runs his own landscaping company. He is committed to learning, building industry relationships, and creating meaningful outdoor spaces while shaping a long-term career in the landscape profession at The Ohio State University.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Kevin Kehoe Rising Star Scholarship
Kelley Govan
Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Kelley is pursuing a degree in Environmental Horticulture as a career transition. She has extensive experience working with and learning about plants through ecological habitat restoration, permaculture, diversified vegetable farming, and garden education. Developing a well-rounded foundation in horticulture will enable her to further her passion for creating regenerative, resilient, and beneficial landscapes that are ecologically functional and beautiful.



Kevin Kehoe Rising Star Scholarship
Grace Morris
University of Missouri

Grace Morris is currently pursuing her degree in Plant Sciences, Emphasis in Horticultural Science and Design, with Certificates in Landscape Design and Floral Artistry and Management. She is passionate about using her creativity combined with her love of plants to create functional and unique designs. Each design she makes shows intentionality and character as living art.



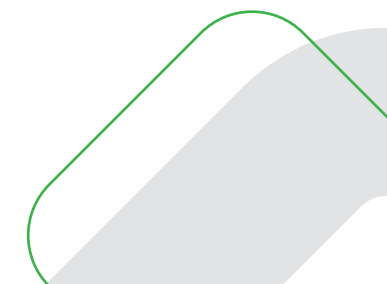
Kevin Kehoe Rising Star Scholarship
Caroline Philbin
College of DuPage

Caroline Philbin is pursuing her degree in horticulture. She is passionate about designing beautiful, sustainable, and accessible outdoor spaces. With five years of experience in horticulture and parks, she has honed her skills in plant care, greenhouse operations, and landscape management. Caroline is eager to apply her skills to create meaningful, lasting contributions to her community.



Lambert Landscape Company Scholarship
Daniel Kwong
Texas A&M University

Daniel Kwong is currently pursuing a double degree in Horticultural Science and Plant & Environmental Soil Science. He is passionate about designing and managing resilient green spaces that support both ecological health and community well-being, with future goals of teaching and advancing sustainable landscape practices.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Level Green Landscaping Scholarship

Emma Manwiller
Penn State University

Emma Manwiller is a Landscape Architecture student at Penn State, graduating in Spring 2026. She is passionate about thoughtful planting design, sustainability, and landscapes that feel welcoming and connected. Emma hopes to become a Registered Landscape Architect who will contribute to projects that strengthen ecological resilience while enriching the lives of the communities they serve.



Lifescape Colorado & The Hupf Family Scholarship

Joshua Merkley
Brigham Young University

Josh Merkley is studying Plant and Landscape Systems at Brigham Young University. He harbors a great appreciation for the outdoors and is dedicated to learning all that he can about trees. Josh plans to gain experience by working both as a field arborist and sales arborist, then eventually starting his own company.



Mariani Premier Group / Ed Castro Landscape Scholarship

Martha Jamison
University of Georgia

Martha Jamison is currently a third-year student in the Landscape Architecture program with a minor in horticulture. When designing spaces, she blends function, resilience and aesthetics to create a well-balanced site. She's excited to continue learning in her last year of education and is looking forward to applying her knowledge to real-world projects.



Martha G. Hill Scholarship

Piper Bratton
Mississippi State University

Piper Bratton is completing her undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture with minors in Environmental Sustainability and Horticulture. She is dedicated to designing climate resilient areas with a focus on housing provisions. Growing up on the Gulf Coast, she developed a passion for environmental solutions that integrate climate adaptation with social equity to transform vulnerable areas into resilient communities.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Moore Landscape Scholarship
Emily Galloway
Lander University

Emily Galloway is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She also holds an associate's degree in Horticulture Technology. She is passionate about being a strong leader within the landscape industry while continuing to mentor others about the opportunities within this amazing industry. She is excited to continue pushing the boundaries while being a positive influence in the industry.



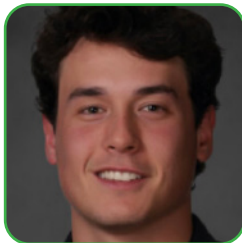
Mours Family Technology Scholarship
Sarah Reiff
Fox Valley Technical College

Sarah Reiff is now pursuing a degree in Greenhouse Operations and Landscape Horticulture. She is dedicated to building a healthy greenhouse and outdoor environment that complements nature and encourages people. Sarah is excited to add her talents to the realm of greenhouse operations and landscape management, having previously worked in gardens, greenhouses, landscape crews, and a hydronic lab.



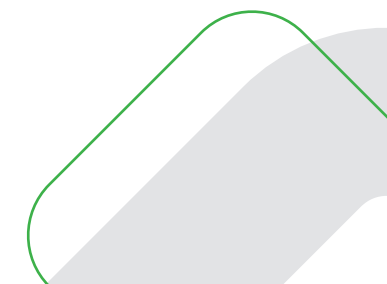
PLANET 2008/2009 Board of Directors Scholarship
Scott Weddle
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College

Scott Weddle is pursuing a double major in Sustainable and Landscape Horticulture at Cincinnati State. He aims to lead community outreach and education initiatives that empower homeowners to create biodiverse, functional gardens, promoting sustainable practices, and expanding the health and resilience of local ecosystems into residential and privately owned spaces.



R.P. Marzilli and Company Scholarship
Dante Filadoro
University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Dante Filadoro found his passion for turf at a young age, mowing lawns before he could even drive. Now a senior at UMass Amherst's Stockbridge School of Agriculture, he is pursuing a career in Turfgrass Management while taking on leadership roles in Alpha Tau Gamma and the UMass Turf Club, engaging in community service, and competing nationally.



>>> AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



RM Landscape & Lemcke Family Scholarship

Emily Walker
Brigham Young University

Emily Walker is currently pursuing a degree in Plant and Landscape Systems with an emphasis in Landscape Design. Passionate about bringing joy to others through the beauty of nature, she is dedicated to creating outdoor spaces that are both meaningful and sustainable. Emily looks forward to contributing her creativity and expertise to the field of landscape design.



Ron and Sally Kujawa Scholarship

Kayla Crump
Milwaukee Area Technical College

Kayla Crump is pursuing her associate's degree in Landscape Horticulture. She is passionate about restoration and community-based land stewardship that supports both people and ecosystem. With hands-on experience in leadership, native plant care, and environmental outreach, Kayla is excited to grow as a leader in sustainable landscape management.



Rossen Landscape - Collegiate Leader Scholarship

Molly Jones
Virginia Tech

Molly Jones is a Landscape Architecture student at Virginia Tech, with a strong passion for sustainable design and resilient communities. She has experience in design communication and horticulture and has completed an internship in landscape architecture. By combining creative problem-solving skills with ecological awareness, Molly aims to create meaningful built environments that foster a connection between people and nature.



Schill Ground Management/Jerry and Jim Schill Family Scholarship

Maria Cristina Murray
Columbus State Community College

Cristina Murray, a mother of two young sons, is pursuing a degree in Landscape Design & Management at CSCC. Her bachelor's degree in Studio Arts, passion for horticulture, and interest in sustainability have led her to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture. Cristina is eager to leverage her fine arts background to contribute a unique perspective to the landscape industry.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



Shirley B. Mangum Scholarship
Cailey Blackmer
University of Missouri

Cailey Blackmer is finishing her degree in Plant Science. She is optimistic about pursuing a future in interior plant design, creating spaces that harness the beauty of nature and bring it indoors. With entrepreneurship experience and her own houseplant business, Cailey is excited to grow with the green industry and will enter it with confidence.



Sousa Landscape Management & the Sousa Family Scholarship
Annie Harrison
Brigham Young University

Annie Harrison is currently pursuing her degree in Plant and Landscape Systems at Brigham Young University. She loves nature and learning more about how she can bring native plants to people's backyards. With her creative and determined mindset, Annie is excited to further her education in the landscape industry.



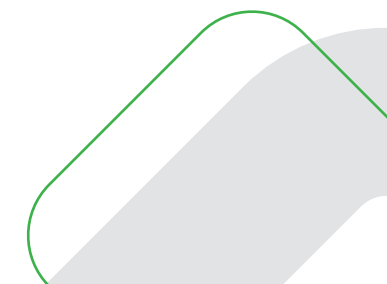
Stay Green Inc. Scholarship
Luke Duncan
Cal Poly - Pomona

Luke Duncan is a third-year graduate student studying Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona. Luke currently works a part-time job at a native plant nursery in Los Angeles and aims to pursue a career where he can facilitate meaningful connections between people and the native plants of their region.



Stephen Hillenmeyer Landscape Services Scholarship
Ella Gielstra
Texas Tech University

Ella Gielstra is an undergraduate student at Texas Tech University pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture. She aims to design safe spaces that positively impact people and the environment, utilizing design and creativity. With extensive internship experience, Ella plans to use her skills to navigate diverse landscapes and sustainable developments while becoming a dependable leader among her peers.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



**Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care -
Tolkacz Family Scholarship
Benjamin Joy**

The Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture

Ben is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Horticulture. He is passionate about incorporating native trees and plants into landscapes as means of creating habitat and functional outdoor spaces. Ben developed a number of skills from his work in silviculture, volunteerism and as a horticultural apprentice, and is excited to use them as he pursues a career in public gardens.



**The Bruce Company Scholarship
Eden Revels
Mississippi State University**

Eden Revels is currently pursuing her degree of Landscape Architecture as well as a degree in Landscape Contracting and Management. She is passionate about creating outdoor spaces where communities flourish and ecological integrity is preserved. Eden is eager to apply her growing expertise to the vast field of landscape architecture.



**The Carol Keeling Scholarship
Jessica Brannon
Brigham Young University**

Jessica Brannon is currently pursuing a degree in Landscaping with a desire to implement sustainability within design. She loves working with her Heavenly Father in creating beautiful environments for all people to enjoy. She thrives in the outdoors and is excited to further her studies and skills to the improvement of the green industry.



**The Glowacki Family Scholarship
Ben Mellema
Michigan State University**

Ben Mellema is currently in the Landscape Construction Management program here at Michigan State. He loves to be outside in the summer constructing patios, transforming landscapes, and creating his own unique touch to every job he lays his hands on. He has been working in the landscape and nursery setting from a young age at his family's Nursery and Landscape Company.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



The James Martin Associates & the Martin Family Scholarship
Connor Lejman
College of DuPage

Connor Lejman is currently pursuing his certificate in Landscape Design and Construction from the College of DuPage. With a background in landscape maintenance and marketing, he is passionate about creating relationships and maintaining exceptional outdoor spaces. Connor looks forward to growing as a leader in landscaping industry.



The Joe Palimeno Family Scholarship
Cale Rice
Pennsylvania College of Technology

Cale Rice is currently attending Pennsylvania College of Technology pursuing a Landscape/Plant Production degree. With experience in nurseries, landscaping, and arboriculture, he's dedicated to hard work and creating high quality work that helps others enjoy the outdoors. He's eager to bring his skills and passion into the industry.



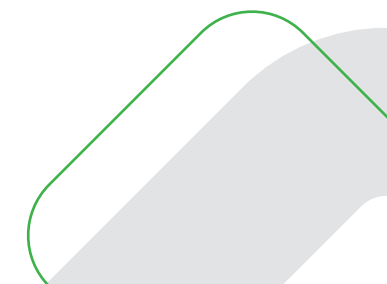
The Parley Glover Memorial Scholarship
Emeline Burton
Brigham Young University

Emeline Burton is a Landscape Design student at BYU with four years of experience in Landscape Maintenance. She finds peace in nature and is passionate about exploring and creating tranquil, beautiful spaces. Emeline aims to design outdoor environments that inspire, and to teach others to connect with nature through growing their own vegetable gardens.



The Ruppert Landscape Company Scholarship
Chase Riley
Auburn University

Chase Riley is a senior at Auburn University majoring in Landscape Horticulture with a minor in Business. He values the importance of providing optimal outdoor environments where people can connect with nature. With internship experience and a love for horticulture, he seeks to build his career through professional management and client-focused service.





AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS



The Theodore W. Brickman, Jr. Scholarship

Hannah Reutter

North Dakota State University

Hannah Reutter is a senior at North Dakota State University majoring in Horticulture and Crop & Weed Sciences. She is passionate about connecting people with plants, and she is excited to continue pursuing this passion through public horticulture and education.



The Thomas Fochtman Family Scholarship

Chloe Snyder

Michigan State University

Chloe Snyder is currently pursuing her degree in Horticultural Science at Michigan State University. She is passionate about plant diagnostics and solving problems to help landscapes look their best. Working for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, she helps protect Michigan's agricultural systems and respond to pathogens threatening them. She is thrilled to work and contribute meaningfully to the green industry.



The Todd Williams Memorial Scholarship

Elyse Reilly

Utah State University

Elyse Reilly is currently pursuing her degree in Residential Landscape Design and Construction at Utah State University. She is passionate about the construction side of landscaping and enjoys seeing projects come to life from start to finish. Elyse is excited to apply her skills to the field of landscape construction management.



Tom and Carol Lied Memorial Scholarship

Michael Branley

Penn State University

Michael Branley is a recent Penn State graduate with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. He is passionate about designing landscapes that are ecologically sustainable, but also practical for initial implementation. Having been an intern and landscape construction foreman over the last four summers, Michael is excited to pair his love for landscape construction with a career in landscape architecture.



AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.



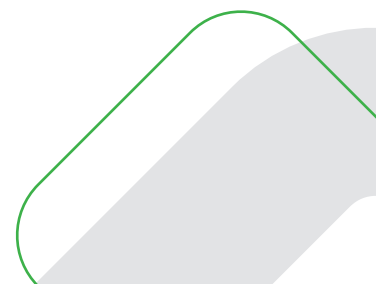
Vito Mariani, Sr. Scholarship
Adam Frost
Mississippi State University

Adam Frost is a senior at Mississippi State University pursuing dual degrees in Landscape Architecture and Landscape Contracting & Management. As president of the university's NALP chapter, he is passionate about sustainable design and strives to integrate creativity with technical precision to develop functional, environmentally responsible outdoor spaces.



Warren Gorowitz Family Scholarship
Cheryl Postrozny
College of DuPage

Cheryl is a horticulture student at College of DuPage specializing in Sustainable Landscape Design. She brings hands-on experience in ecological restoration and native planting, with a passion for creating perennial-rich spaces that support pollinators, enhance wellness and inspire creativity. Her long-term goal includes developing an artist-focused nature retreat grounded in conservation and community engagement.



STATE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado
Kaden Arrastia, Colorado State University
Kimberley Campos, Colorado State University
Bradyn Fajardo, Colorado State University
Alex Krupicka, Colorado State University
Gwyneth Riddle, Colorado State University
Mia Kaneen Roth, Colorado State University
Bella Smith, Colorado State University
Ann Trebelhorn, Colorado State University

Ohio Green Industry Association
Diedre Lego, Cuyahoga Community College
Abby Eland, Wilmington College
Margaret Shane, Cuyahoga Community College
Grace Abner, Columbus State Community College
Maria Murray, Columbus State Community College
HaileeJo Nichols, Upper Valley Career Center



IN MEMORY

of Chuy Medrano



Chuy Medrano passed away on March 14, 2025, at the age of 70. Medrano was the co-founder and owner of CoCal Landscape, based in Denver, Colorado.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Medrano was the oldest of eight siblings and only finished the third grade before he began working to help support his family. He took whatever jobs he could and ended up in New Mexico, where he picked the seeds out of red chilies.

Traveling to Denver, he eventually found his passion in landscaping, and in 1991, Tom Fochtman approached Medrano about starting a landscape company with him.

Fochtman still recalls the first time he met Medrano, who was shoulder-deep in the mud fixing a mainline break on a property when he visited Denver for an interview with ValleyCrest.

“When we drove off, I very well remember the branch manager saying, ‘This guy’s got a ton of potential,’” Fochtman says.

Fochtman saw Medrano’s potential as well. He told his wife he would not start the

company unless Medrano agreed to be his partner. After giving it some thought, Medrano agreed, and they started the business in December 1992. Medrano handled the ops side of the business.


“He was the voice of the field workers,” says Carlos Medrano, one of Chuy’s sons and a manager with CoCal. “He was the face of the people.”

Medrano was a strong advocate for his people. He worked to create a place where his employees could thrive and grow, as well as feel safe away from their home. Many of CoCal’s team members have been with the company for 20+ years.

“He knew that not only did his family depend on CoCal, but many countless families depended on their employment at CoCal,” says Mari Medrano, Chuy’s daughter and human resources director for CoCal. “He carried a heavy burden of many people on his shoulders, but that made him happy. It was always about the people with Chuy.”

CoCal joined NALP in the first year they started the business, and they also won an Award of Excellence that same year.

“Nobody knew who we were, but people knew Chuy pretty quickly, because he was very gregarious, and he always wore a cowboy hat,” Fochtman says. “He was never without a cowboy hat.”



In 2011, Medrano founded the National Hispanic Landscape Alliance (NHLA) and served as the first president of NHLA. He was also one of twenty winners of the 2014 Hispanicize Positive Impact Award, which recognizes those who contribute selflessly for the betterment of their communities.

Medrano cared deeply about helping people in any way he could, whether that meant lending equipment or mentoring small business owners. He even supported an orphanage in his hometown of Chihuahua. He was also a platinum scholarship ambassador of the NALP Foundation.

Medrano served on the NALP Foundation Board for several years, starting in 2018, and was also an NALP Trailblazer.

In 2021, Medrano received the Bob Cannon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado for being a tireless advocate for the landscape industry at the local, state and national levels.

Throughout his career, Medrano advocated for the H-2B program as well as the importance of training up-and-coming leaders.

“We were always at career days,” Fochtman says. “We always had interns. He was very supportive of all those initiatives. He knew that we needed young leadership to follow in what would become our footsteps as we matured; we needed to backfill with young leaders. He very much knew and believed that.”

Aside from his cowboy hat, Medrano was known for his smile, outgoing nature, and genuineness. Fochtman says Medrano mentored and inspired him throughout his entire career.

“He was the best that he could be with the skill set he had and made a difference in the Hispanic community

and in the landscape industry,” Fochtman says.

Described as kind, charming, and funny, Medrano was a very loving person who had many friends in the industry. Carlos says his father would often joke with people saying, “Si no fueras mio lo compraba” which translates to ‘If you weren’t mine, I would buy you.’ Medrano would say that with love, letting people know they belonged in his circle.

“He would start meetings or end meetings with jokes,” Mari says. “He always was a joke teller for safety meetings or any type of meeting, and if he wouldn’t tell a joke, the team would ask him for one.”

Medrano valued his family most of all.

“He sacrificed for his family,” Mari says. “For his wife, for his kids, for his parents, for his siblings, for his extended family.”

Mari says her father taught her and her siblings to be proud of their culture, their background, and to never hide.

“I believe many of Chuy’s values and qualities are reflected in Jody, Carlos and myself,” Mari says. “Us three make up one of Chuy, and we will work hard to live up to his legacy and through our work here at CoCal and personally, he will live on. We will work for the rest of our lives to make him even more proud of us than he already was.”

For his legacy of uplifting others and keeping people at the heart of his work, Medrano was posthumously named the 2025 Lifetime Leader of the Year by NALP during their annual conference, ELEVATE.

Medrano is survived by his wife, Maria Lourdes; his four children: son Jesus and wife, Maria, son Carlos and wife, Jodie, daughter Marisol and husband, Sergio, and daughter Valerie; his 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren, three brothers and four sisters.

The NALP Foundation: Growing the Future of the Landscape Industry

The NALP Foundation is dedicated to advancing professional careers in the landscape and lawn care industry — and there's so much more to our story.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Foundation is a \$5.4 million charitable nonprofit organization committed to supporting the next generation of landscape professionals.
- We have awarded more than \$2.2 million in scholarships to over 1,800 horticulture and landscape students nationwide.
- We invest in workforce development through programs such as the Scholarship Program, SkillsUSA, Roblox experience (Landscape Design Empire), and other initiatives that inspire and prepare future industry leaders.

SUPPORTING NCLC THROUGH KEY INITIATIVES

The Foundation proudly strengthens the National Collegiate Landscape Competition by sponsoring:

- The SUPERSTAR Awards
- The Kevin Kehoe Student Leader of the Year Award and Scholarship
- The Educator of the Year Award
- The Student Leadership Forum Lunch
- Business Track student workshops

VISION

The public understands the value of landscapes and the professionals that make them possible.

MISSION

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