

NCIS Scholarship Program Helps Deserving Students

By Dr. Laurence M. Crane, NCIS

In 2010, the NCIS Board of Directors approved the NCIS 1890 Scholarship Program to help qualified students at the 1890 Land Grant Universities complete their education and prepare them for careers in agriculture. Since that time, almost two dozen students have been

awarded a scholarship, helping many first-generation college students afford a better education.

The crop insurance industry is actively working to increase the diversity in its workforce, reflecting the diversity of the farmers it serves, and the NCIS scholarship program is a key building

block in preparing and delivering an educated and diverse workforce.

Commenting on her scholarship experience, a previous scholarship recipient wrote: "John Holmes once said 'There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people





Ashli Holloway



Jerstashia Sims



Mary Mitchell



Wesley Adair Maximilian Benson (Max)



Aaron Dore

up.' To the phenomenal people and scholarship committee of NCIS, thank you. Thank you for reaching down, lifting me up and helping me accomplish my goals!"

NCIS 1890 Scholarship Recipients for 2018

Aaron Dore from McDonough, Georgia, is a junior attending Fort Valley State University (FVSU), Aaron is majoring in Agricultural Economics with a concentration in Agribusiness and a minor in Business Logistics. He has been on the Dean's list since his freshman year and is a member of the Fort Valley State University wildcat football team that won the 2016 SIAC championship.

Ashli Holloway is a junior at Alcorn State University majoring in Animal Science. She is from Stockbridge, Georgia, and chose Alcorn State because of its outstanding Animal Science Department. During the summers she has attended the vet-step student program at Tuskegee University. She has always had an interest in and love of animals and plans to work in the animal care industry after graduation. She also loves music and taught herself to play the cello.

Jerstashia Sims is from the small town of Louisville, Georgia, an economically depressed rural community known for having a very high unemployment rate and low undergraduate graduation rate. Jerstashia is a driven young woman with goals of preparing herself to better her life and then in turn, help others with similar backgrounds. She is majoring in Agricultural Economics at Fort Valley State University in Georgia.

Mary Mitchell grew up in the small town of Kremlin, Oklahoma, and was one of eight students in her class and the first African American woman to graduate from the high school. She is a junior at Langston University majoring in Animal Science. Mary has been active in sports and other campus activities where she has had the oppor-

Scholarship Qualifications

- Continuing status as a full-time undergraduate student at an 1890 Land Grant University
- Completed sophomore year in college and are considered a junior (four semesters to graduate)
- Declared major in an agricultural discipline
- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA
- U.S. Citizen



tunity to exhibit her exceptional leadership skills.

Wesley Adair Maximilian Benson (Max) is from Ardmore, Oklahoma, and is majoring in Natural Resources Management at Langton University in Oklahoma. As an active participant in football and track, he has learned discipline and time management, allowing him to also excel academically. Max is very personable and a natural leader. He volunteers to help struggling students in his classes and is a positive role model and respected by his peers.

The scholarship program is just one of several activities NCIS engages in to build relationships and strengthen the association between the crop insurance industry and the minority community engaged in agriculture.

Whereas most Federal programs are delivered to citizens through a Federal agency, the Federal crop insurance program is delivered to farmers

through the private insurance industry. There are 15 Approved Insurance Providers who hold a cooperative agreement (Standard Reinsurance Agreement) with USDA to sell crop insurance to farmers. As the not-for-profit trade association for those 15 companies, NCIS provides services to and for these insurance companies. Because crop insurance is a Federal program the industry has an obligation to reach out to "underserved audiences." In practice this means small, limited-resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers. On behalf of the crop insurance industry, NCIS' outreach activities include working with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) that have agricultural programs, Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), Community Based Organizations (CBO), and other allied professionals who work with and serve minority farmers across the country.