

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, more than 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.

The NCIS scholarship recipients are all academically sound and well-rounded students who participate in extracurricular activities and give back to their communities. They exhibit excellence in the classroom and have a sense of community citizenship that extends beyond campus borders. They truly are exceptional young men and women, and NCIS is honored to support them.

NCIS 1890 Scholarship Recipients for 2020

The NCIS 1890 scholarship recipients for 2020-2022 are:

Andrion Erves, Vicksburg, Miss., is majoring in Environmental Science at Alcorn State University (ASU) in Lorman, Miss. From an early age science has intrigued Andrion. Her mother was a science teacher for 15 years and her grandfather taught horticulture for 30 years. She feels majoring in environmental science can help expand her knowledge of the many relationships between science, engineering, and agriculture. She is a member of various clubs and organizations such as



Andrion Erves

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Collegiate 100 Women of ASU. Andrion's hobbies include painting, volunteering, and playing tennis.

Her goal is to eventually receive her doctorate in Environmental Science and become a teacher, helping young people understand and appreciate science.

Trevor Folsom, Cushing, Okla., is majoring in Natural Resource Management with a minor in crop and soil science, at Langston University in Oklahoma. Trevor is an exceptional student who has distinguished himself in the classroom with his academics and in the community with his service. His family raises cattle and he also works on a neighbor's ranch. Production agriculture has taught him the values of family, faith, community, and hard work.

His goal is to attend graduate school at Oklahoma State University to prepare himself for a career in natural resource management and live-



Trevor Folsom

stock production. He also hopes to someday have his own farm.

Jaevien Akinmola is from Manning, S.C., and is majoring in Agribusiness at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg. During the past two years he has been the highest-ranking agribusiness major, the president of the South



Jaevien Akinmola

Carolina State University chapter of MANNRS, a member of Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society, and was named a USDA 2020 Ag Outlook Forum Future Leader in Agriculture. Jaevien just recently completed a virtual work experience as a member of the USDA-ARS Office of Outreach Diversity and Equal Opportunity, working to develop programs that will recruit and train students to prepare them for career opportunities in the field of agriculture.

His goal is to graduate at the top of his class and receive a law degree in the future. Equipped with these skills, he plans to be an advocate for

producers of all sizes and promote policies and judgment that are fair to agriculture as well as work to preserve the environment.

Charity Greene is from the small community of Ashburn, Ga., and is majoring in Agricultural Economics at Fort Valley State University in Georgia. As a graduating honor student from Turner County High School in Ashburn, Charity participated in basketball and track and field.

Her educational goal is two-fold: engage in research that will improve farm productivity and participate in education that promotes food safe-



Charity Greene

ty. She aspires to be a role model for other women of color and people from small rural communities, demonstrating that dedication, hard work, and perseverance can lead to success for themselves and their communities.

Faith Fantroy is from Montgomery, Ala. She is majoring in Agricultural Economics at Fort Valley State University and is a member of the Lady Wildcats basketball team. For Faith, basketball has instilled the attributes of leadership, teamwork, adaptability, and determination. With the influence of her parents, role models, and her coaches, Faith has set high standards for herself and she seeks excellence in the classroom, on the court, and in her aspiration to be an agricultural economist.

Her goal is to make more healthy food products available for consumers of low and average incomes. She plans to educate people about the foods they consume and where those foods come from and how purchasing local products will benefit their community.



Faith Fantroy

Scholarship Specifics and Requirements

Amount: (\$3,000) - \$750/semester for four semesters

Funding: Provided by National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS)

NCIS is a 503(c) not-for-profit crop insurance trade association whose membership includes all of the private companies offering federal multiple peril crop insurance.

Qualifications:

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

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 14 Approved Insurance Providers who have a contract (Standard Reinsurance Agreement) with USDA to deliver (sell) crop insurance to farmers. As the not-for-profit trade association for those 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 "under-served audiences." In practice, this means small, limited resource and socially disadvantaged farmers. On behalf of the crop insurance industry, NCIS' outreach activities work 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.