

Scholarship Recipients



By Dr. Laurence M. Crane, NCIS

Annually NCIS awards scholarships to two students majoring in an agricultural discipline and enrolled at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The 1890 Land-Grant institutions are historically black universities that were established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890. The purpose of this scholarship program is to enable deserving students to further their education and to expose them to the business of crop insurance. Once awarded, the scholarships are in effect for four semesters as long as the recipients meet the academic qualification requirements and continue as a full-time undergraduate



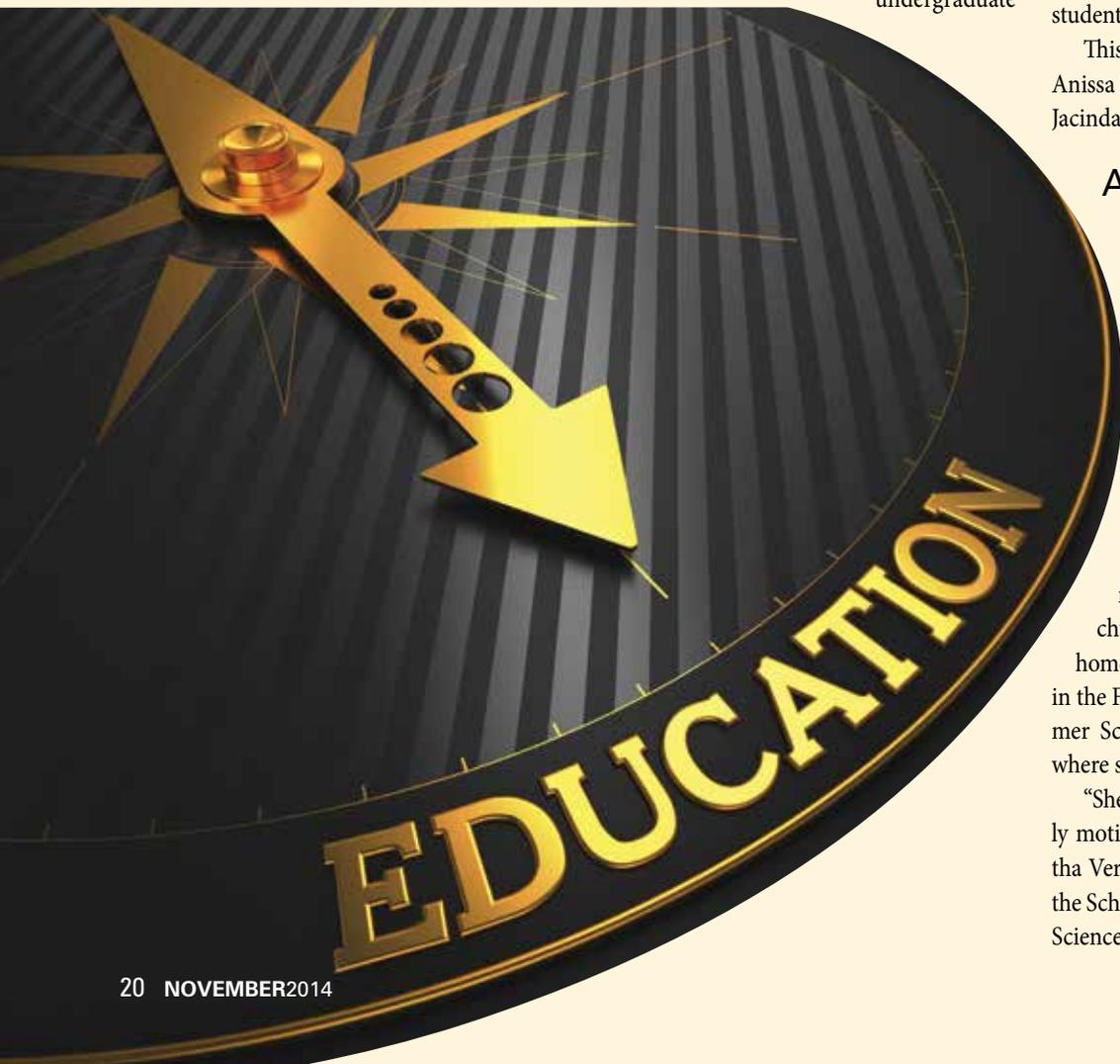
student in good standing at the university.

This year's scholarship recipients are Anissa Taylor, Alabama A&M University, and Jacinda Lugo, Fort Valley State University.

Anissa Taylor

Anissa Taylor is a junior majoring in Food Science at Alabama A&M University in Normal, Alabama. Even as a freshman, Miss Taylor was involved in many extracurricular and service activities throughout Normal. As a student, she uses her knowledge of science to assist fellow students in overcoming academic challenges through study groups and peer mentoring activities. She volunteers at church and cultural events and nursing homes. Recently, Miss Taylor participated in the Feeding Tomorrow Food Science Summer Scholar program at Cornell University where she conducted research.

"She is one of the few students who is highly motivated and determined," said Dr. Martha Verghese, Professor and Interim Chair of the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. "Anissa is committed to continue to



grow in her professional career of becoming a food scientist through gaining more academic training and expertise.”

Upon graduation, Miss Taylor plans to enter the food industry and explore career opportunities. Eventually she would like to obtain an MBA or MS to further her educational goals.

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) is a traditional 1890 land-grant institution that functions as a teaching, research, and public service institution. The campus is situated in Normal, only a short distance from downtown Huntsville, the site of the school’s founding. The school was founded in 1875 by a former slave, William Hooper Council, and opened as the “Huntsville Normal School.” It was established as a land-grant institution in 1890, named “The State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes,” and in 1969, became “Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.”

There are approximately 5,000 undergraduates and 900 graduate students, from 44 states and 11 foreign countries. There are five undergraduate schools (Agricultural & Environmental, Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, and Engineering & Technology) offering 41 Baccalaureate, 23 Master’s, 1 EdS and four doctoral degrees.



Jacinda Ruby Lugo

A junior majoring in veterinary technology at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) in Georgia, Jacinda Ruby Lugo, hopes to be a veterinarian one day.

“I have a true passion for animals and their welfare and I see myself pursuing my passion through research, wildlife conservation and creating a rescue center,” said Miss Lugo.

As a shy child, Miss Lugo found comfort in animals and her love for them grew as she did, having several different types of animals

Scholarship Qualifications:

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

Establishment of the “1890 Land-Grant Institutions”

The Land-Grant College Act of 1862, or Morrill Act (named after the sponsor, Vermont Congressman Justin Smith Morrill), provided grants of land to states to finance the establishment of colleges specializing in “agriculture and the mechanic arts.” However, not everyone could access this new educational system. Under the conditions of legal separation of the races in the South at that time, African Americans were not permitted to attend the original land-grant institutions. Although the Morrill Act of 1862 authorized “separate but equal” facilities, only Mississippi and Kentucky established institutions for African Americans under this law, and only Alcorn State University in Mississippi was designated as a land-grant institution. To rectify this situation congress passed the Second Morrill Act in 1890, which specified that states that maintained separate colleges for different races had to propose a just and equitable division of the funds to be received under the act. Any states that had used their 1862 funds entirely for the education of white students was forced to either open their facilities to black students or to provide separate facilities for them.

Sixteen southern states that did not have an African American land-grant college by 1890, each established one later under the Second Morrill Act. These universities, along with Alcorn State in Mississippi, founded in 1871 (designated as a land-grant institution following the 1862 Act), and Tuskegee University in Alabama, became known as “The 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.” Although Tuskegee University is not a land-grant institution, it traditionally has been associated with the African American land-grant institutions because Tuskegee has espoused the land-grant philosophy throughout its history.

as family pets over the years. At FVSU she has had opportunities to educate fellow students about horse husbandry and animal welfare. She also participates in a work study program and in Georgia's statewide hurricane preparedness drills through the Vet Science Club.

"Jacinda is focused and determined to advance her education," said Saul Mofya, assistant professor at FVSU. "Giving her an opportunity to pursue her study will not only enrich her professional skills, but also highly benefit students and other veterinary professionals."

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) is a historically black university located in Fort Valley, Georgia. It is also a unit of the University System of Georgia and a member-school of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. As the only 1890 land-grant university in Georgia, Fort Valley State University is a comprehensive institution that provides an education to over 4,000 students. The student body is currently approximately 91 percent of African-American descent. The University is located in the town of Fort Valley in Peach County, the original site of the nation's peach industry. Its 1,365 acre campus is the second-largest in area for a public university in the state.

1890 Land Grant Institutions

Alabama A&M University, Normal, Alabama
Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Arkansas
Delaware State University; Dover, Delaware
Florida A&M University; Tallahassee, Florida
Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Georgia
Kentucky State University; Frankfort, Kentucky
Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
University of Maryland - Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Maryland
Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi
Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri
North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina
Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma
South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, South Carolina
Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee
Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas
Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia
West Virginia State College, Institute, West Virginia