

NCIS 1890 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 Charles Waller, Fort Valley State University, and Helena Hollins, Langston University.

CHARLES WALLER

Charles Waller is a junior agricultural economics major at Fort Valley State University in Georgia. He is a member of a number of professional and student organizations including the Fort Valley State University Honors Program, Alpha Beta chapter honors program, and the Agricultural Economics club. Charles interned with an attorney over the

summer and the opportunity provided him valuable experience and insight into the legal field. He learned how to properly document papers, interview clients, and file cases.

Outside of academics, Charles is very involved in university activities. He has spent three years as member of Black Men with Initiative (BMW I), three years serving on the Royal Court with numerous positions, and one year as a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

"As a member of BMW I, this group of guys taught me the true meaning of scholarship," Charles said. "I learned that if you

study and work hard, the sky is the limit."

Charles also serves as a student leader as part of a university service organization that assists freshman on campus, and as a student ambassador helping interested students tour the campus. In addition to these activities, he is also a part of the ROTC program serving as a staff sergeant position. Charles plans to graduate as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army and go to law school to become a family lawyer.

HELENA HOLLINS

Helena Hollins is a junior studying agriculture business and accounting at Langston Uni-



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.

versity in Oklahoma. Her future goals include starting her own business, receiving her MBA, and possibly a career at Land O’ Lakes, Inc.

Helena interned with Land O’ Lakes, Inc., over the summer within their Supply Chain & Operations Division.

“I truly enjoyed working as an intern and learning how to best serve the company by implementation of the Lifecycle Management Initiative which I presented at the end to a panel of professionals and a room full of my intern peers,” said Hollins.

Outside of her studies Helena is the president of the Langston University Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS) chapter, president of the Philosophy Club, previous member of the SGA Supreme Court, a member of the Bibliography Club, keeper of histories for the

English Club, member of Heart 2 Heart, and a mentor in Heart 2 Heart Bridges.

“Miss Hollins, who is from California, has shown considerable academic ability and the dedication and motivation it takes to be

a top student,” said Clark Williams, professor, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.”

“Studying agriculture has completely changed my life,” said Helena.



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