

NCIS Scholarship Program Helps Deserving Students

By Dr. Laurence M. Crane, NCIS

The objective of the NCIS 1890 Scholarship Program, is to help qualified students at the 1890 Land Grant Universities complete their education and prepare them for careers in agriculture. The crop insurance industry is actively working to increase the diversity in its workforce, reflecting the diversity of the farmers they serve, 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 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!"

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

1890 Scholarship Recipients for 2019

Celina Bowman is from Woodbridge, Virginia, and attends Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Bowman is majoring in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in General Dietetics. Her goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. In a letter of support as part of her scholarship application, her advisor noted her many outstanding charac-



Celina Bowman

teristics, including a strong work ethic, learning ability, and willingness to help other students succeed through mentoring.



A'ysa Callahan

A'ysa Callahan is from a low-income neighborhood in Waukegan, Illinois, and is majoring in Food Science at Alabama A&M University.

Scholarship Specifics & Requirements

- Amount:** (\$3,000) - \$750/semester for four semesters
- Funding:** Provided by National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).
- 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.

She is dedicated to helping people in poor communities improve their lives by improving their diets. He parents are very supportive of her educational goals and she is grateful for the loving home they created for her. Consequently, she leads by example and tries to encourage those dealing with self-doubt, encouraging her peers to overcome their under performing environments and pursue excellence to the highest extent of their abilities.



Myles Davis

Myles Davis is from Kansas City, Missouri, attending the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Davis is majoring in Agricultural Business and one day he would like to help reduce food insecurity in low-income urban areas. Davis is both academically sound and socially aware. He is a member of the football and track teams, receiving academic recognition in both. Additionally, he actively participates in service projects that help the community through his membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., where he holds the position of Strategus.



Morgan Green

Morgan Green is from Houston, Texas, and the first member of her immediate family to attend college. She is an Animal Science major at Prairie View A&M University. Later she would like to continue her education to become a veterinarian. She is an honors student, a member of the Undergraduate Medical Academy (an organization that assists students in preparing for professional school), and an active member of the Pre-Vet club. Furthermore, she is a frequent volunteer at a food co-operative in Houston, volunteering at both the physical store location and on their farm completing duties needed for the health of the crops and plants on the farm.

Kevin H. Holmes Jr. is from the small town of Marianna, Arkansas, where he grew up working on the family farm. He is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He has the desire to learn the skills necessary to help his family succeed on the farm. His advisor at the University noted that Kevin is very service minded and community oriented. When the band leader was hurt in an accident, he stepped up and acted as drum major to keep the band going. And he gives back to the community by providing free haircuts to the young men at the Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County.

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.



Kevin H. Holmes Jr.

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 14 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 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.

