

Agronomic Science Foundation A New Gateway to Success

The Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) is constantly looking for avenues to find, train, and supply the world with the proper scientific talent that will be necessary to sustain the profession in the future. The **Gateway Scholars Program** is one such initiative that will make a real and lasting difference, and I want to let you know how you can be part of it.

The Gateway Scholars Program is a collaboration between the ASF and the Diversity in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee (ACS528) of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. This program will help identify potential talent that the agricultural and environmental sciences need to thrive in the challenging times ahead.

Each year, a group of local high school students—along with their teachers—will be invited to the Annual Meetings to attend sessions in various disciplines and interact directly with research scientists, educators, and other professionals who are working to address global challenges



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in agriculture, food production, alternative energy, and the environment.

The Gateway Scholars Program nicely complements the Gateway Fund and Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute, which are already established within the ASF. The Gateway Fund guides young people toward careers in agronomy, crop science, and soil science by funding novel approaches for inspiring and recruiting promising high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute supports the training of undergraduate students by funding their travel to the Annual Meetings where students are matched with professional members who mentor them that week and for a year afterward.

This October, the Gateway Scholars Program will bring about 50 students to the Annual Meetings from five Cincinnati-area high schools that have large minority populations. The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute will invite about 20 undergraduate students from various universities around the world. Both of these groups will be treated to an outstanding educational experience, professional networking with world-class scientists, and even a little fun!

As you can imagine, significant resources are needed to sustain these important initiatives, and there are many ways you can help make a difference. Please consider making a donation as well as volunteering to help inspire the next generation of agricultural and environmental scientists.

Your interest and support will be greatly appreciated by future agronomy, crop, soil, and environmental scientists who will discover the ways to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us all. Contact me today to see how you can help!



Gateway Scholars at the 2010 Annual Meetings in Long Beach, CA.