

## Agronomic Science Foundation

# Imagine a World without Life Sciences

Life in the modern world as we know it cannot exist without the agronomic, crop, soil, and environmental sciences. These disciplines help sustain an ever-increasing global population that faces a reduction of fertile agricultural land, increased costs of inputs, extreme weather conditions, distribution challenges, and an onslaught of insects and weeds.



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Fortunately, the world has been blessed with an army of scientists to develop ways to combat these challenges. However, within the next 10 years, many of these scientists and professionals will retire just as their talents become evermore essential for industry, government, and academic institutions alike.

The Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) recognizes this challenge and is taking steps to address this situation with new initiatives and opportunities. I am proud to report that ASF has developed a model that includes three monetary funds that will be used to find, train, and supply the world with the scientific talent that will be necessary to survive in the challenging times ahead.

One of these funds is called the **Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute**, which is currently celebrating its five-year anniversary with nearly 100 alumni who are considered to be the best new talent available. The other two funds are brand new: the **Gateway Fund** and the **Pathway Fund**.

The Gateway Fund will be used to inspire young students and guide them to a career in agronomy, crop science, or soil science. It will provide funding to those who propose methods to identify, inspire, and recruit high school, undergraduate, and graduate students to the profession. When fully funded, up to \$5,000 annually will be available per successful proposal with the option of renewal based on its success.

The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute will continue to train undergraduate students so that they can stay on a successful career path in the agronomic, crop, or soil sciences. Undergraduates apply for travel support to the International Annual Meetings of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA where they are matched with Society members who act as mentors during the meetings and for a one-year period afterwards.

The Pathway Fund will provide travel support to inspire young, energized scientists and professionals the opportunity to share scientific expertise in struggling areas around the world. The Pathway Fund is available to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members early in their careers. When fully funded, up to \$15,000 will be provided per successful proposal on a six-month basis with the option of renewal. The award will be available to members with a history of active membership in ASA, CSSA, or SSSA.

So what can you do to help? Please consider making a year-end donation to ASF, which is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Every dollar you commit helps seed, cultivate, and harvest new scientists and professionals that provide our planet with what it so desperately needs. I cannot imagine a world without ASF.

## New Members

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Franco, Jose G., Bryan, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Smith, Jonathon, Bryan, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Ruiz, Jonathan, Burleson, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Adams, Gretchen, Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Edwards, Courtney L., Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Gilcrest, Jody R., Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Hou, Xiaobo, Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Leininger, Andrea Beth, Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Zhang, Chongyuan, Canyon, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Beloiu, Eduard, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Corona, Ana Sofia, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Duke, Sara E., College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Hejl, Reagan Wesley, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Morgan, Luke, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Myatt, Robert Wayne, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Russell, George Andrew, College Station, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Wagner, Kevin, College Station, TX, ASA  
 Bosco, Michael James, Dallas, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Wu, Yingzhe, Dallas, TX, SSSA  
 Allen, Michael Shane, Denton, TX, SSSA  
 McEntire, Coby C., Dumas, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Hammond, Rebecca Ann, Huntsville, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Menendez, Hector Manuel, Huntsville, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Li, Chenhui, Lubbock, TX, SSSA  
 Sharma, Bablu, Lubbock, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA  
 Vanous, Adam Edward, Lubbock, TX, ASA, CSSA, SSSA