



PRESS RELEASE

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

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GFAI Invests in the Future Through Scholarships

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois (GFAI) proudly announces the selection of six exceptional students from across the state to receive scholarships supporting their endeavors in the grain and feed industry.

The Industry Immersion Scholarship, valued at \$3,500, honors students who exhibit academic excellence, community involvement, and a passion for careers in the Illinois grain and feed sector. Eligible candidates, including freshmen, sophomores, and juniors enrolled in accredited colleges or universities, must maintain permanent residency in Illinois. Graduates of the Industry Immersion program can also apply for a renewable \$1,000 scholarship. GFAI further offers the \$5,000 Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship to seniors aspiring to work in Illinois country grain elevators post-graduation.

Recipients will embark on a 3-day Industry Immersion Kick-Off Tour in August, gaining insights through visits to industry facilities and networking opportunities. They will be honored at GFAI's Annual Convention and Trade Show in Springfield over President's Day Weekend 2025. The Industry Immersion program pairs students with grain elevators, providing hands-on experience and operational knowledge throughout the year. Students are required to shadow industry professionals for at least two days each semester and document their experiences in a student blog.

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients:

Industry Immersion Scholarship:

Kaylee Blackford (Lake Land Community College) of Potomac

Adam Loker (Southern Illinois University) of Keenes

Kate Colgan (Kansas State University) of Laura

Anna Kistner (Southern Illinois University) of Scheller

Renewable Scholarship:

Jack Beetz (Iowa State University) of Mendota

David Mock (University of Illinois) of Galva

Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship:

Anna Kistner (Southern Illinois University) of Scheller

As the representative body for over 90% of Illinois' commercial grain storage and feed handling facilities, GFAI sustains its scholarship program through member contributions and annual fundraising events. For further details, visit www.gfai.org.

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