



2013 Young Leader Scholarship Program

Status Update

3/2/2016



Colorado

Lily Niknami

I graduated from Colorado State University in December. Following graduation, I took a position with a company in Fort Collins and am working as a Geographic Information Systems Technician. I am awaiting responses from graduate programs and am hoping to begin my master's degree in August.

3/2016 update....

Cartographer at U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).



Illinois

Brad Bernhard

I will be graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Crop Sciences and a minor in Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences

3/2016 update....

I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois in 2014. The day after I walked across the stage I started my Master's program in Crop Physiology, also at the U of I, under the advisement of Dr. Fred Below. During the past year I have obtained my pesticide application license, got my CDL, and even completed the requirements to become a Certified Crop Advisor. I will be graduating this May with my Master's degree and after much thought I have decided to accept a job as a full-time research technician while at the same time

continuing my education to obtain my Doctorate degree. I will be staying in the same program with Dr. Below as my advisor. If everything goes as planned, I will finally finish my schooling in 3 years and be looking for a technical development role in the agricultural industry.

Brad Bernhard, CCA
Graduate Student
Crop Physiology



Indiana Kelsey Tuholski Sampson

I am happy to say that I am set to graduate in May with my degree in Crop Science from Purdue. I have accepted a job offer from Horizon Ag Consulting as a Business Development Manager. Essentially I will be putting the wheels in motion for a new soil valuation company called TOPsoil, LLC where I will serve as General Manager.

3/2016 update....

Soil Specialist/Business Development Manager at TOPsoil, LLC



Iowa Bethany (Olson) Drendel

I will begin my full-time career with Pioneer starting out as a production agronomist in Pioneer's Emerging Leader Program, with a dual role in the DuPont Commercial Development Program. I will spend 9 months in Hedrick, Iowa at my first rotation before relocating to our Heartland business unit in Bloomington, IL to train for an Account Manager role.

3/2016 update....

Account Manager, DuPont Pioneer



Kansas Paige Druffel

I still have one more year of school. But this summer I will be a marketing intern with Monsanto at headquarters in St. Louis working with the America's Farmers program.

3/2016 update....

In May I graduated from K-State in agricultural communication and journalism with a minor in agronomy. I spent 3 months in Nebraska as a District Sales Manager Trainee with Monsanto. After my training I moved to Satanta, KS Where I am District Sales Manager for Channel seed in southwest Kansas.



Michigan Krista Janeschek

I have secured a position with our local elevator in my hometown - Caledonia Farmers Elevator in Caledonia, MI as an Agronomy Sales Representative. I will be crop advising as well as selling fertilizer, seed and chemicals to growers upon graduation this May.

3/2016 update....

Customer Success Representative at AgWorld, Inc. - Denver



Minnesota Nick Peterson

Currently I am finishing up my last semester at the University of Minnesota. I have accepted a job offer with AgReliant Genetics to become a seed representative following graduation. I am currently working part time with one of AgReliant's seed brands (AgriGold) in Southern Minnesota while I finish out my classes. I will be working part time at home on the farm as well.

3/2016 update....

Assistant Vice President at Citizens Bank Minnesota – Lafayette, MN



Missouri -Andrew Perry

Upon graduating in May I plan on returning to the family row crop and beef cattle farm in northern Missouri. Simultaneously, I have been meeting with a DuPont Pioneer Account Manager in my area about the possibility of becoming a seed/crop chemical dealer.

3/2016 update....

Farmer at Novinger-Perry Farms – Kirksville, MO



Nebraska Justin Loeffelholz

I am still in school, planning on graduating this December. Classes are going well, I am just finishing up my general education classes. I have a job lined up for the summer, working for an agronomist back in my home town. I have not yet set up for a job for post-graduation, but I am still looking!

3/2016 update....

Things have been going well for me. I am currently working at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I work in the Agronomy and Horticulture department as a Research Technologist for the university Soybean Breeding program. My responsibilities include planting, harvesting and maintenance of the programs yield plots. I also take care of the plots and data that are used in the Northern Region Uniform Soybean Trials and Northern Region SCN Trials for Nebraska locations. On top of this, I am also going to begin a master's program this summer. I will be doing a non-thesis online masters at UNL. I will be majoring in crop production and physiology.



North Dakota Morgan Hanson

I am starting graduate school this fall and will actually start the research part of it this summer. I have not made a decision of what I am doing my research on, but I know it will be something in Weed Science.

3/2016 update....

I am currently still in graduate school at North Dakota State University in the Plant Sciences Department. I will be graduating this spring and am currently looking for future employment.

Morgan Hanson
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Plant Sciences Dept.
Graduate Student
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South Dakota Ted Berckes

Agronomist sales position from Helena Chemical Company! Starting right after graduation with Helena in my home town of Canby, MN.

3/2016 update....

I am still currently working for Helena in Canby MN as a Sales agronomist. I was recently informed at our awards banquet that I was named the Retail Closer award of the Midwest Division. This award is given to a rep that has been working with Helena for 1-2 years and the recipient is based off of performance with growth in customers and sales. So I was very honored to have been selected as the 2015 growing season Sales Rep for the Closer Award.

I am happily married as of 8.15.15 to my amazing wife Amanda. She is a masters student at SDSU where she is pursuing a degree to become a registered Dietitian. I recently also received my CCA (Certified Crop Adviser) status from The American Society of Agronomy so I continue to further my education to hold my CCA credentials.



Wisconsin - Leanna Leverich

I am currently in my Junior year studying Agronomy and Life Sciences Communication, and this summer will be interning with Dow AgroSciences in their Seed Corn Production Unit.

When I return to University of Wisconsin in the fall, it will be my last semester as an undergrad in Wisconsin, as I am going to finish my degrees overseas in Copenhagen, Denmark.

3/2016 update....

After from returning from a semester abroad in Denmark, I graduated from University of Wisconsin - Madison in December with a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and Life Sciences Communication. This past January I started my Master's program in Agronomy with a soil science emphasis at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, under Dr. Daniel Kaiser. My research is in nutrient management, particularly with phosphorous movement.