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AFE grateful for 2024 scholarship reviewers

July 31, 2024

The [American Floral Endowment](#) has always had a strong commitment to uplifting the next generation and sharing with them the many exciting opportunities and paths the floral industry holds. The company knows that financial stress is a huge burden that students face – that's why it strive to provide for as many students as it can each year through scholarships.

This year, AFE received 106 scholarship applications, a 23 percent increase compared to last year. The number of colleges/universities represented has also broadened compared to previous years, which shows the company's outreach has helped boost awareness about the Endowment's programs to new levels. AFE is excited to share that in 2024-2025 and will be awarding scholarships to 24 students for a total of \$67,600. The company is currently notifying these students, and will be formally announcing the recipients in the next few weeks, so stay tuned to communications to meet these exceptional students!

All of this said, AFE couldn't do what it does for students without the support of dedicated volunteers and friends of the Endowment who contribute their time to help us with this process. This year, 60 individuals stepped up to help support the next generation with AFE by participating in the scholarship review process.

Thank You Volunteers!



AFE is grateful to the 2024

Scholarship Review Team:

Dr. Damon Abdi – Louisiana State University Agriculture Center

Ken Altman – Altman Plants

Tulle Alexander – Altman Plants

Jenny Behlings – J Ellen Design & Market

Lacey Bilke – Madeline's Flowers *

Lenzee Bilke – Madeline's Flowers *

Jack Bobo – North Carolina State University *

Dr. Megan Bowman – Ball Horticultural Company

Dr. Mark Bridgen – Cornell University

QiuXia Chen – Dummen Orange *

Valerie Crisostomo – Black Girl Florists

Debasish Paul – North Carolina State University *

Greg Dedman – Mountain View Greenhouse

Patricia Dewar – Dewar Nurseries

Lizbeth Ecke – Carlitas Company

Rodney Fernandez – Michigan State University

Natalie Franklin – Armellini Logistics

David Garcia – Pete Garcia Company/Garcia Group **

Denise Godfrey – Olive Hill Greenhouses

Dr. Ockert Greyvenstein – Ball Horticultural Company **

Dr. MengMeng Gu – Colorado State University

Monique Hakkert – Ball Horticultural Company
Dr. Josh Henry – Ball Seed *
Jim Hessler – Altman Plants
Dr. Nathan Jahnke – Ball Horticultural Company *
Chris Johnson – CalFlowers
Annika Kohler – Oceanfront Farms *
Suzie Kostick – Flora Renaissance
Dr. Charles Krasnow – Volcani Institute *
Mary Lewis – Syngenta Flowers *
Dr. Leynar Leyton – University of Florida *
Dr. Navreet Mahal – Texas A&M University
Dr. Chad Miller – Colorado State University
Dr. Terril Nell – Past AFE Research Director
Mike Novovesky – Allied Hort Sales, Inc.
Raymond Odeh – Industry Member
Delilah Onofrey – Suntory Flowers
Monnaie Pepin – CalFlowers
Adam Pound – Industry Member
Ralph Pulte – Industry Member
Dr. Vijay Rapaka – Smithers-Oasis Company/Oasis Grower Solutions **
Cindy Rapley – Allied Hort Sales, Inc.
Dr. Nate Royalty – BioWorks, Inc.
Andrew Royer – Royer’s Flowers and Gifts
Greg Royer – Royer’s Flowers and Gifts **
Dr. Debalina Saha – Michigan State University
Karen Schneck – Scotts Miracle-Gro *
Dr. Shahla “Sara” Mahdavi – University of Idaho *
Brandan Shur – North Carolina State University *
Ankit Singh – University of Maine *
Dr. Brent Sipes – University of Hawaii
Brian Sparks – Meister Media Worldwide
Dr. Eric Stallknecht – Virginia Tech *
Jim Tuinier – Post Gardens
Dr. Simone Valle de Souza – Michigan State University
Carolyn Van Namen – Vansland Properties
Jack Van Namen – Vansland Properties
Dr. Erfan Vafaie – BioWorks, Inc.
Julie Walker – Obra Verde Growers
Dr. Anne Whealy – Proprietary Rights International
Dr. Kimberly Williams – Kansas State University
Jane Zussman – Industry Member

* Notes Member of AFE’s [Young Professionals Council](#)

** Notes Member of AFE’s [Board of Trustees](#)

If you are interested in joining AFE’s Scholarship Review Team for 2025, please reach out to AFE’s Program Coordinator, Candice Musgrove, at cmusgrove@afeendowment.org.

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