



Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisors Award \$5,000 in College Scholarships

The Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Advisors (MACCA) have awarded two \$2,500 college scholarships to local students to further education in the plant and soil science fields. Jamie Conner of Schuyler, VA and Eric Scruggs of Mechanicsville, VA were announced as recipients of the 2017 scholarships during lunch of Crop Management School in Ocean City, MD earlier this month.

“A recent study showed that there will be roughly 58,000 job openings in agriculture and related fields in coming years. But currently, only about 35,000 students graduate annually with a bachelor's degree or higher in ag,” said MACCA Chair Bill Rhorer. “It is important to encourage students to pursue degrees in plant and soil science related fields to further advance our industry.”

Jamie Conner became involved in her local FFA in seventh grade through which she participated in various agronomy and crop judging competitions. When it came time for her to choose a college major, Crop and Soil Science was a natural fit because she enjoys it so much. In her freshman year at Virginia Tech University, she decided to put a twist on it, adding minors in International Studies and Global Food Security and Health so that she could focus on international agriculture. After graduation, Jamie hopes to assist undeveloped nations to establish sustainable agriculture tactics.

Growing up in a farm family, Eric Scruggs had a passion for agriculture from a young age. He too was involved in FFA through middle and high school, and by his sophomore year of high school, he already knew that he wanted to study Agronomy at Virginia Tech University. He was awarded early admission to the school, and since has completed various summer internships in the industry where he learned about the latest production practices. After earning his bachelor's degree, Eric hopes to attend graduate school and one day work in a role where he can improve crop yield performance, quality traits, and management technology.

The MACCA board approved additional funding for another year of college scholarships at their recent meeting in October. Applications will be available early summer of 2018. For more information visit www.midatlanticcca.org or contact Danielle Bauer, Programs & Public Relations Director, at 443-262-8491, danielle.mdag@gmail.com.

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